Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-236
Friday
7 December 1990

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Palestinian Affairs

Leaders Discuss Baghdad Quadripartite Meeting

'Interlinking Solution' Stressed

LD0612210790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Palestinian leadership yesterday held a meeting, chaired by brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], to discuss the results of the important quadripartite meeting that took place in Baghdad on 4 December between the leaders of Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, and Palestine.

The Palestinian leadership assessed the results achieved by that meeting, especially those concerning preparations for the Iraqi-U.S. dialogue, the importance of the Arab solution under an international cover, and the necessity of beginning the inter-Arab dialogues and meetings.

The Palestinian leadership stressed the importance of the results of the Baghdad meeting that addressed the comprehensive interlinking solution to all the crisis and issues of the region, a solution that stems from international legitimacy and whose base is the cause of our Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and sovereignty in their homeland.

The leadership stressed the importance of conducting urgent contacts and consultations with all the brother Arab leaders to emphasize the unity of Arab stands and interests.

'Arafat Hails Results

JN0612214890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis, 6 Dec (INA)—The Palestinian leadership held a meeting in Tunis today under Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, during which the four-way meeting held in Baghdad the day before yesterday was discussed.

The Palestinian leadership praised the results reached by the four leaders and their emphasis on a comprehensive and linked solution of all crises and issues in the region on the basis of the rules of the international legitimacy, headed by the Palestinian people's issue and their right to self-determination and sovereignty over their land.

The leadership referred to the importance of holding urgent consultations and contacts with all leaders to assert the unity of Arab positions and interests.

'Arafat Welcomes Hostage Decision

LD0612233990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Iraqi president's call on his parliament to adopt a resolution allowing all foreigners to leave Iraq if they so wish was welcomed in all international capitals.

In this context the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat described Iraq's proposals for releasing the Western hostages as a brave decision. He pointed out that the initiative could create a suitable atmosphere for finding a peaceful political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The statement by 'Arafat came when he received today in Tunis the ambassadors of the United Nations Security Council permanent members with whom he reviewed the results of the quadripartite meeting which took place recently in Baghdad with the Iraqi president, the King of Jordan, and the Yemeni vice president.

Possible Peace Conference Viewed

JN0612144290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-Rabbuh] The report on the U.S. call for holding an international conference is still unconfirmed. There are hints that the U.S. Administration will accept a formula calling for an international conference at the appropriate time. Successive U.S. administrations have long repeated such a formula; namely, talking about the appropriate time. Given that the situation in the region may explode and that the Gulf crisis underscored the fact that the region's issues and problems are linked and inseparable, we believe that now is the appropriate time. Therefore the convening of the international conference is of an urgent and pressing need, and this should be accompanied by international protection for our people under occupation. This is the question that the U.S. Administration is trying to evade, especially in the wake of the successive massacres perpetrated by Shamir's fascist government in the occupied territories. We want neither mere hints and signs, nor vague and flaccid formulas by the Security Council or other parties. What is required are clear and definitive resolutions on the convening of the international conference at a precisely fixed time, as was the case with the Gulf crisis when a fixed time—15 January—was set. Why does the same thing not apply to the convening of the international conference and to the dispatch of international forces to secure protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories?

[Reporter] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, what do you expect from the Iraqi-U.S. dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] If the Americans are really serious, the dialogue should involve in-depth discussion of all issues

and problems of the region, especially the Palestine question. The problems and crises of the region are linked. In our meeting in Baghdad that was attended by President Saddam Husayn, His Majesty King Husayn, brother Yasir 'Arafat, and Yemeni Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid, we made it clear that we are willing to see the Gulf crisis as the last crisis in the region, and that the region should not witness a sharp crisis or large explosion every few years. Therefore what is required is a holistic approach and an integrated solution to all the issues and crises; foremost of which is the Palestine question; the Gulf crisis; the just distribution of the Arab wealth; and the achievement of security, stability, and sovereignty to all peoples and countries of the region, especially the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and independence.

In the talks in Washington, Iraq will not speak only for itself but on behalf of the Arab group that holds the same views as those of Iraq. For the Arab interests to be defended, the same standards used under the new world order must be applied to the Arab region; that is the economic and nationalist interests of the Arab peoples and countries, and their right to control their natural resources, must be taken into consideration.

[Reporter] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, in light of the Arab contacts you just mentioned, do you see in the horizon anything new regarding the holding of an Arab-Arab dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Yes, certainly. If the door to an Iraqi-U.S. dialogue has been opened, we do not understand why the door to Arab- Arab dialogue should not be opened. To be more specific, we are talking about a dialogue between the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia on one hand and Iraq on the other, and about a dialogue among all Arab countries. We do not want to stand in opposing and warring positions. Since the Baghdad Summit we have been seeking a unified Arab position toward common goals, foremost of which is the protection of pan-Arab security and Arab interests in light of the new world situation that has emerged over the past two years. We are calling for an Arab-Arab dialogue. This decision was taken during Baghdad's four-way meeting on Tuesday. We believe that if the true Arab interests were to take precedence, the dialogue would achieve practical results.

[Reporter] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, let us be more specific. Are there any certain steps concerning this Arab-Arab dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] After the Baghdad meeting two days ago, we began contacts with a number of fraternal Arab countries, especially the "Arab solution countries" as they are now known, with a view to unifying the views and positions. After our announcement in Baghdad that we welcome Arab-Arab dialogue, we expect the other fraternal Arab countries to initiate steps so that we can meet in the middle; that is start a dialogue.

[Reporter] Thanks to PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments Further

LD0612211890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The head of the PLO Information Department, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, said the Baghdad quadripartite meeting rejected any bargaining on the idea of interlinking and comprehensive solution of all the crises which link the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue.

He added that the Iraqi-U.S. dialogue that will commence during the coming few days in Washington will include the solution of all the basic matters—the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the participants in the Baghdad meeting hoped the Gulf crisis would be the last great crisis in the Middle East. They considered that, owing to the fact that the region's problems are interlinking, there should be an interlinking and comprehensive solution to them.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the Palestinian leadership decided at the first stage to conduct a series of contacts with nine Arab leaders close to Iraq and then with the anti-Iraq Arab countries as a preparation for mini Arab meetings. He added that the PLO stressed the importance of dialogue between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries to reach an Arab solution.

Palestine Question Urged Raised

JN0712091990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Dec 90 pp 18, 14

[Report by Nabil 'Amr in Amman]

[Text] The PLO has embarked on an extensive flurry of diplomatic activity in the Arab and international arenas with a view to drafting an appropriate formula for raising the Palestine question in the Iraqi-U.S. negotiations called for by U.S. President George Bush.

Authoritative Palestinian sources told AL-DUSTUR that the United States has softened its position on linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. This is reflected in a U.S. undertaking to initiate action to find a political solution to the Palestine question—a solution that guarantees the rights of all peoples and states in the region—once the scenario for resolving the Gulf crisis has been drawn up. This, however, does not mean delaying until the Gulf crisis has been finally resolved, because Iraq and its Arab supporters will not accept a resolution of the Gulf crisis without initiating real and practical U.S. steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The sources said that several European countries have begun to understand the Arab position as reflected by the four-way Baghdad summit that comprised His Majesty

King Husayn, President Saddam Husayn, President Yasir 'Arafat, and Yemeni Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The summit called for a solution to the region's problems within an integrated Middle East peace package.

The sources said some Arab countries that previously opposed the idea of linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question have begun to relax their opposition now that they have sensed a softening in the U.S. position and the support of many world nations for finding a comprehensive and final political settlement of all Middle East issues, including the Palestine question, the crux of the conflict in the region.

The sources added that enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to the United States and Israel's extensive political activity on the international scene are attempts aimed to hinder the Middle East peace process and to obstruct the U.S. Administration's flexible position regarding the need for a solution to the Palestine question.

According to information available to the Palestinians, Israeli circles are now afraid of the international climate that is now ripe for taking another step toward solving the Palestine question, especially after the U.S. President announced his willingness for talks with Iraq and his acceptance of the idea of an international conference to bring about peace between the Arabs and Israel.

'Arafat Arrives in Yemen After Baghdad Meeting

JN0712143190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar], president of the state of Palestine and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa at noon today on a visit to our country.

Brother Abu-'Ammar clarified in a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY-SABA' that his visit comes in the wake of the quadripartite meeting that took place this week in Baghdad between our country, Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine to study Arab and international developments that have taken place during the Gulf crisis, and to affirm the soundness of the course followed right from the start by all honorable Arabs calling for an Arab solution to the crisis—away from saber-rattling and trading away the nation's causes and Arab blood.

He pointed out that all this seeks to realize the interest and future of coming generations and preserve the heritage of this ancient Arab nation and its national security which we should watch over so that we Arabs can assume an effective role in this new world order.

Receiving brother Yasir 'Arafat at the airport was Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; a representative of the Presidential Protocol; and Yahya Rabah, the state of Palestine ambassador in Sanaa.

Al-Husayni Praises Middle East Conference

JN0612203590 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2014 gmt 6 Dec 90

[Text] News that the United States would back the idea of a Middle East conference drew favorable reaction from Palestinian activists in occupied Palestine:

[Begin Faysal al-Husayni recording] I believe that it is a right step toward the right direction. Having the international conference—it was one of the demands that we asked for because we believe that it can help solving [as heard] the problem in the Middle East. [end recording]

U.S. Position Called 'Old Tune'

JN0612184790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The U.S. agreement to hold an international conference—after Washington added amendments to the draft resolution noting the need for a sound preparation for the conference and for holding it at the appropriate time—has been termed an old tune and maneuvering by the PLO. PLO Information Department Chief Jamil Hilal said that the United States has resorted to maneuvering to avoid a clear position on the problem. He added that this clarifies the Americans are in a defensive position and that they are maneuvering to avoid linking the Palestine question with the Gulf crisis.

The Palestinian official said that "at the appropriate time" means the conference will be held when the United States wants; and by "a sound preparation" Washington means excluding the PLO as an equal party with the other parties to the crisis.

Jamil Hilal added that we want a specific date for the convening of the conference since 15 January was defined as the date for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He said we also want a commitment that the PLO will be considered a participating party and an international force to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territory.

Concluding, the Palestinian official said that there is no other way for the Americans, who will ultimately accept the idea of linking the two crises. Otherwise, he said, the political losses will be substantial.

Fatah Members To Discuss Israeli Practices, Gulf

JN0612150190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Brothers Salah Khalaf—also known as Abu-Iyad—and 'Abbas Zaki, both members of the Fatah Central Committe, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country lasting for several days.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency SABA', brother Abu-Iyad said that the visit is part of a tour by several delegations of the Palestinian leadership to explain and discuss the developments in the occupied

territories and the brutal Zionist practices being committed against the Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah. He also said that the visit aims at discussing developments in the Gulf crisis, the recent Security Council resolution, and U.S. President George Bush's response to negotiations in order to resolve the crisis peacefully.

The Palestinian officials were received by brothers Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee; Yahya al-Shami, member of the Consultative Council and the Political Bureau; and brother Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Sanaa.

Qaddumi Addresses UN on Palestine Question

JN0612162590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Farug Qaddumi], foreign minister of the state of Palestine, has said that the United Nations should effectively play the role which it was established for in the first place that stipulates resolving international issues, defending rights, and maintaining peace and security in the world. In a speech at the UN General Assembly's 54th session, Abu-al-Lutf added that this requires full respect for international legitimacy, not just selection of what suits some. Concluding the traditional debate on the Palestine question which was opened last Thursday, Abu-al-Lutf stressed that Middle East issues are linked even in terms of solutions and asserted that dialogue is the best way of resolving these issues collectively. He explained that the Palestinian people have every right to be skeptical about the U.S. Administration's allegations about its eagerness over international legitimacy and its resolutions, as well as about the true U.S. intentions in the Gulf region.

The foreign minister of the state of Palestine explained that during the four-year intifadah, more than 1,200 Palestinian citizens have been killed by the Israeli occupation troops—half of whom children and women—and 90,000 others have been detained. Meanwhile, he explained, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to confiscate land and have seized about 52 percent of the territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He indicated that the occupation authorities continue to exercise the crimes of killing, deportation, and detention, and that these authorities continue to impose the policy of starvation, siege, mass punishment, setting fire to agricultural crops, uprooting trees, and imposing extra taxes. He affirmed that this Zionist policy of intimidation receives U.S. material, military, and political support despite the intransigent Zionist policy and defiance of the international legitimacy, the United Nations, and international unanimity. He stressed that the state of Palestine adheres to its peaceful initiative declared two years ago, and emphasized that this initiative reflects the Palestinian people's determination to put an end to the occupation as well as their desire for the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East through the convocation of an international peace conference in which the five permanent member states of the United Nations and all concerned parties, including the PLO, should take part.

Algeria

Bendjedid Questioned on Elections, Gulf Crisis

LD0612043890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] For the first time since he was elected in February 1979 Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, gave an interview with a national mass information medium. He devoted the interview to APS to several hot national and foreign issues. [passage omitted]

On holding legislative elections ahead of time he said: At a convenient time we will announce the specific date in accordance with the concrete preparations with which the government is occupied. Chadli Bendjedid added that in any case the deadline will not exceed the next six months.

The head of state was asked a question on the direction of the reforms: Are they on the right track and is their implementation compatible with your idea of society? Here he said that the reform process is in the implementation stage and it is natural that there are difficulties and obstacles which must be overcome. [passage omitted]

Because bribery is a characteristic of all the countries of the world we must now work with caution and perseverance so that we are not wrongly accused and do not stain the dignity of the people. The head of state thinks that the new data introduced in management will allow for the prominence of more independence and the (?increase) of initiatives in companies by making workers participate in results. The state will only finance the strategic sectors.

The head of state was firm on farmlands and believes that the conditions on the basis of which the law was prepared were very just. But he said: We notice in most cases that the deviation was regrettableyin the implementation and the administration. Moreover, there are some who were trying to play a [word indistinct] trick and accuse some personalities in order to hide the others.

Where are the punishments for these deviations? I do not want to touch on these considerations. I think, however, that punishments preceded the publication of lists. The head of state emphasized that the important thing is to remain just. He interjected at this point that he did not escape the false rumors and said: It was said that I took 80 hectares. Do you know that I was one of the first people to donate my private land that I inherited from my grandfathers to the agricultural revolution. So stop the slander. I said to the concerned officials: Implement the law and only the law. [passage omitted]

He touched on hot issues in the international arena, among them the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue. In his interview to APS the president of the Republic assessed the rearrangements taking place in the Arab world and outside it, saying: A solution to the Gulf crisis, that at the beginning was an Arab-Arab problem, could have been found in a purely Arab framework. A solution was possible, and now after all the developments which have emerged, particularly after the internationalization of the issue and the intervention of foreign military forces in the region, a solution to the conflict, if it must be Arab, must also take into consideration the elements and forces which have intervened in this crisis.

Algeria has always expressed its adherence to international legitimacy and the principles of the UN and OAU charters, particularly its respect for borders inherited at independence. We were among the first states to express their regret over the occupation of Kuwait by force. The head of state added: We cannot remain silent in the face of a threat directed at Iraq and against its capabilities. We believe that it is a common property of the Arab nation. We also cannot remain with our hands tied in the face of the attempts to starve the Iraqi people.

We drew the attention of Arab leaders to the danger of minimizing the Palestinian issue that we consider the most important cause of the Arab nation. Dangers can also result from the presence of foreign forces in the region. The consequences on international peace and security cannot be predicted. The situation today is very complicated and dangerous. However, despite all this we have never despaired at seeing wisdom and dialogue prevail over the situation. We will continue to make all possible efforts to create the required conditions in order to reach a peaceful solution and avoid an armed (?confrontation) that would constitute a disaster for the whole world.

The Palestinian issue taht has been going on for decades, Chadli Bendjedid said, must be the first priority of international organizations. This problem must find at the present moment, with the circumstance of the crisis which affects the Middle East region as a whole, a solution that is compatible with the rights of peoples to self-determination, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, particularly their right to establish an independent and sovereign state. Even if the Gulf crisis is not (?on the whole) linked to the Palestinian issue, it is linked to it politically. Hence the need to deal comprehensively with it prevails. A solution to all the conflicts of the region must be found so that peace and security are fully and permanently established in the Middle East.

Bendjedid Receives Kuwaiti Delegation

LD0512110390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid this afternoon also received a delegation of the Kuwaiti People's Congress led by Ahmad al-Gattani, who later declared:

[Begin al-Gattani recording] We informed his excellency about the position of the Kuwaiti people on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. His excellency the president affirmed Algeria's principled stand that calls for the necessary Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with the various resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. His excellency the president

also pledged, as Algeria has always done, that Algeria's efforts will continue to achieve what has been set out by these resolutions. This is indeed what we all wish for in implementing the UN resolutions and also implementing the Arab League resolutions and the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization. We hope this nation will be spared the atrocities of war. If war breaks out, God forbid, it will be destructive for the Iraqi people and Iraq first, and for this entire nation. [end recording]

The Kuwaiti legislative delegation was also received today by the foreign affairs ministers, Mr Sid Ahmed Ghazali. The meeting dealt especially with the situation in the Gulf. On this occasion, Mr. Ghazali reiterated Algeria's stand on the situation in the region stressing the need to find solutions that might help settle the issue peacefully.

Legislative Group Meets Kuwaitis

LD0412163790 Algiers APS in English 1318 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 4 Dec (APS)—Talks took place yesterday between a delegation of the People's National Assembly led by Abdelaziz Belkhadem (APN), and a Kuwaiti delegation led by the former president of the Kuwaiti parliament, Ahmed Saadoun as well as the minister of communication, Ahmed Katan and members of Kuwaiti Popular Congress.

The chairman of the APN declared that the position of Algeria has always been in favour of a [word indistinct] solution [word indistinct] to the [word indistinct] right.

The Kuwaiti side which expressed itself on the behalf of the Popular Congress of Kuwait dealt with the serious consequences of the invasion in Kuwait as well as the stability in the region. The members of the Kuwaiti delegation insisted on the danger represented by this crisis for the Arab people, they also added that such a crisis is an advantage to the Zionist expansion in the region. Hailing the official position of Algeria, the Kuwaiti delegates recalled the close links between both countries since the national liberation war and expressed their faith [words indistinct] the Algerian people wisdom who has always been on the sides of the fair causes.

Bendjedid Receives Saudi Envoy, Fahd Message

LD0612040490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Today President Chadli Bendjedid received Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Musalam, one of the principal advisers of the Saudi sovereign, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Musalam conveyed a message to the head of state from the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Commentary Discusses U.S. Gulf Initiative

LD0412090990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Just after the voting of the UN resolution against Iraq and George Bush's spectacular offer to negotiate with Saddam Husayn, reactions in the world to this new development in the situation have not stopped coming in, most of them favorable. But beyond the positive note to this, shall we say historic event, all the political and strategic forces that count on the five continents can be seen throughout the world taking up new positions. This is what has inspired this commentary by Abdelghani Toualbi:

[Toualbi] For those who know the rules of chess, one can say without risk of error that George Bush has castled on the queen's side: that is to say, he has completely rearranged the game that has brought the whole world to the impasse of withdrawal or no withdrawal from Kuwait, war or no war, linkage of the question of Kuwait with the Palestinian question or not, winning the war and risking chaos in the world—especially the western—economy, losing the war and losing face, and so on and so forth.

Up to now the recognised chess player in this crisis was Saddam Husayn. The world has suddenly discovered another chess player, George Bush, with his spectacular initiative for negotiation by his queen's side castling. More seriously, Bush has realized that he has led the world and the United Nations—perhaps it was his intention at the beginning—into an implacable logic whatever the choices made. The first hypothesis: if the Americans and their allies do not attack Iraq, it would be a great blow against the credibility of the United Nations and the members of its Security Council, headed by the United States itself, whose consequences on the whole world no one could foresee.

Second hypothesis: if the Americans and their allies attack Iraq, and let us say make Saddam leave Kuwait, what will happen then in world public opinion? Well, the implacable logic I was speaking of a moment ago would mean that the United Nations and the Americans should do at least the same thing with all the countries occupying territories that do not belong to them, that is to say warn, summons, and vote for resolutions making it possible to strike for example at countries like Israel who is occupying—as westerners forget too often—the West Bank, Gaza, and part of Lebanon; to warn and strike China, too, who is occupying Tibet; warn and strike Morocco who is occupying part of the Western Sahara; to warn and strike Spain who is occupying the north of Morocco in Ceuta and Melilla; and so on.

In brief, apply the law which means reestablishing the sovereignty of each country, of each people on its recognized territories. There small countries like us would have confidence in the United Nations and in its Security Council, in its strike force. Whether it is American, Soviet, French, British, or another is not the question.

But the question arising today is this: Is the United States, as promoter of the United Nations, ready to play this role to the very end? Does it really have the means? Does it have the political will? That is the basis of the problem which is certainly worrying governments throughout the world at the moment behind the scenes, in secret of course because for the moment the western media and analysts seem not yet to have had the order to discuss it publicly, preferring to focus their sights on the Saddam tree hiding the wood of the U.S. kitchen. Aware of this, George Bush has thus castled as in chess, perhaps to gain time or perhaps to change allegiance. In any case he intends changing allegiance in terms of history and rights. Of course it is certain that he will always find himself at least one Israeli minister to cloud the issue and call Saddam Husayn Hitler; but watch out here, as this happened yesterday—an Israeli minister compared his friend James Baker with Chamberlain, the former British Prime Minister who took part in the Munich agreements in 1938, quite simply because he wants to have talks with the Iraqis. Here we come full circle, and perhaps, as a paradox of history, we will one day see the U.S. government, the friend of Israel, in the dock at a new Nuremburg tribunal. It is true that since 1967 Israel has always been set on the world being turned upside down to preserve its interests, even to the detriment of its most loyal friends.

Reaction Cited to Reported Election Postponement

LD0612201490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Islamic Salvation Front held a popular rally at 5 July Stadium to commemorate the 3d anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. [passage omitted]

Regarding events taking place in Algeria, [Islamic Salvation Front leader] Shaykh Abassi Madani told our colleague, Karim Mohsen Soulimane:

[Begin Madani recording] We heard through the news agencies and radios that the Algerian president went back on his promise and that he postponed the elections—or that he wants to postpone them—until after the three months he promised. Good gracious! Is this an issue of an individual or of a nation? When we left the matter to dialogue and left the matter to elections, we did it on the basis that the matter would return to the people. Why this hesitation?

They said the Algerian Army [word indistinct] and that it would get involved in a plan of a coup d'etat. What did we say? It will only move to protect the homeland; it favors striking against the enemies and not against the people. The listeners should know that if there were an overthrow the mother, the daughter, and [word indistinct] will go out. [end recording]

New Party Submits Application for Authorization

LD0412224790 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] A new party, the Union of Democracy and Freedom [L'Union Pour la Democratie et les Libertes] has submitted its application for authorization to the Interior Ministry. This party, which is committed to act with respect for the values which characterize the national identity, intends to try to reinforce democracy in Algeria.

Islamic Group of Criminals Ordered Detained

LD0512204190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The investigating attorney at the Algiers Judicial Council has ordered the detention of a group of 13 people brought to the prosecution by the security authorities yesterday morning.

An official statement by the office of the prosecutor general at the Algiers Judicial Council today explained that the group belong to a covert organization called the Islamic Jihad, Hijrah, and Takfir that carried out a number of criminal acts between August and the end of November this year in Algiers, Blida, El Harrach, Berraqui, Zeralda, and (El Arbatach). Charges filed against the group may be narrowed down to stealing, kidnapping, premeditated murder, wearing military uniforms, and possession of cold steel and military weapons.

The Prosecutor General Office's statement also said that the group was involved in the murders committed at a bar in (Boulougine) in the suburbs of the capital last October, the victims of which were Sidi Said and Si Larbi Si Mohamed.

Investigation will continue until the rest of the accused, orders for whose arrest have been issued, are apprehended. Security men are also investigating the extent of this group's link to the people who recently stole explosives in the town of Jijel.

Egypt

Reportage on Second Round of Assembly Elections

Unelectable Candidates Urged To Resign

JN0612113590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The National Democratic Party [NDP] should think the matter over quickly before the election reruns end. This is neither shameful nor strange. All parties do this in light of practical experience, particularly if the results are unexpected.

It is obvious that the NDP did not expect the results of the 1990 elections, otherwise it would not have nominated a large number of candidates to run in the election campaign despite the advice of many parties.

I myself, for example—and others who support the NDP, who are concerned about it, and who advocate its principles—do not know on what basis the NDP nominated five of its secretaries general and two of its assistant secretaries to fight the election campaign when every sign showed that the chances of winning for all seven were weak, in fact very weak for reasons that are obvious to anybody inside or outside the party.

The following achieved a solid failure: Rif'at al-Hajrasi, secretary general of the al-Sharqiyah Governorate and candidate for al-Zaqaziq electoral district; 'Adil al-Haddad, secretary general of Suez and its candidate; Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, secretary general of Dumyat and its candidate; Anwar al-Kammuni, assistant secretary general of al-Gharbiyah and candidate for al-Mahallah al-Kubra electoral district; and Kamal 'Abd-al-Khaliq, assistant secretary general of al-Gharbiyah and candidate for Tanta electoral district. The following will fight the election reruns against their rivals: Ibrahim al-Dahabi, secretary general of al-Gharbiyah and candidate for Burma electoral district; and Hamdi Qandil, secretary general of al-Minufiyah and candidate for al-Batanun electoral district.

I have no idea on what basis the NDP nominated those people. There are the firm criteria about which we have spoken frequently. The most important of these are popularity, reputation, and popular appeal. Did they imagine, for example, that the post of a secretary general would attract votes, even if these criteria were not met by the secretary? Or did the NDP not expect this complete neutrality and absolute fairness on the part of the Government, so it pushed any elements into the elections in order to win one way or another?

At any rate, the fall of this number of secretaries general and assistant secretaries of the ruling party is the best evidence that the 1990 elections will become an object of pride for all Egyptians for many years to come. There was not a single suspicious case of interference [by the government], and here history is giving the best example to all.

The question, however, is the following: Why do these defeated party leaders not hasten to resign after learning the people's opinion about them? Frankly speaking, the majority has said to Rif'at al-Hajrasi, 'Adil al-Haddad, Hasan al-Zayyat, Anwar al- Kammuni, and Kamal 'Abd-al-Khaliq: We do not want you. Keep away from us.

So why do you gentlemen not take the initiative and remain in obscurity by your own choice and by taking a courageous decision? Or is it difficult to relinquish the General Secretariat?

Fairness Urged in Runoff Vote

JN0712170090 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 Dec 90 p 1

[Article by Editor in Chief Philip Jallab: "Tomorrow Sees the Ultimate Test of Electoral Fairness"]

[Text] Truth be told, the first round of the general elections was free and fair—a fact acknowledged both by us in the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] and beyond.

We have enough self-confidence as a respectable party to testify to the fairness of the elections. We are not members of a gang masquerading as a political party. Neither are we a band of anarchists that sees the Egyptians as belonging to either of two camps—automatic supporters or automatic opponents. Happily we belong in neither camp; we say no to whatever looks irregular—no matter what the cost to us, and yes to whatever looks regular—no matter what amateurs, adventurers, and anarchists may think.

For once a key and longstanding demand of ours has at long last been met: Police neutrality during the election, as promised by President Husni Mubarak and observed by Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

This is not to say that all those who made it necessarily deserved to win, nor that all those who have failed to be elected deserved to lose.

There were abuses by candidates against other candidates; supervisors of electoral committees were guilty of certain irregularities; supervisors of general committees also made mistakes; and here and there, police were not as firm and vigilant as they should have been. Whatever transgressions there were, though, these were not so much government policy as an absence of guarantees sought by us and the other opposition parties, the low level of the political awareness of certain candidates, the free-for-all enjoyed by certain electoral hirelings, and the undue influence of millionaires who prospered unchecked under pervasive corruption and indiscipline.

In fairness it must be said that these isolated, if serious, transgressions—commited by either members of the National Democratic Party [NDP] or supporters of independents—hurt some candidates of the NDP and independents as well as some of the NPUG's. Perhaps the case of Dr. Hamdi al-Sayyid—a politician of integrity par excellence—who contested a seat for the NDP at al-Nuzhah constituency best illustrates the more serious transgressions.

Yet, the performance of the personnel of the Ministry of Interior on balloting day is to be commended. It is not an overstatement to say that this has had the effect of the Egyptian people shaking off their self-imposed apathy brought on by past, bitter experience.

The yardstick by which this unique experience is to be judged should be the level of turnout in any future elections, and tomorrow's runoff vote should be the first test.

President Husni Mubarak's regime and the Interior Ministry security apparatus have in tommorrow's vote an opportunity to furnish an unprecedented model of fairness to be held up for Egypt and the Arab world, subject to the police maintaining a neutral posture and their ability to forestall any electoral fraud or irregularities by the political and electoral mafia. The Egyptian people deserve the freedom, justice, and fairness they expect to have. Let us wait and see.

NDP Wins 79.6 Percent of Seats

NC0712173790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—The National Democratic Party [NDP] has won the majority of the People's Assembly seats. NDP candidates won 348 seats or 79.6 percent of the total 444 assembly seats. This came in an Interior Ministry statement announcing the returns of the People's Assembly elections following yesterday's runoff elections.

Candidates of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping—an opposition party—won six seats, or 1.4 percent of the total assembly seats. Independent candidates won 83 seats, or 19 percent of the total parliamentary seats.

According to the Interior Ministry's statement, the runoff elections were halted in four electoral constituencies by administrative law court orders.

These constituencies are: The eighth constituency headquartered at the al-Matariyah police station in Cairo where the election was halted for two seats; the sixth constituency headquartered at the Mashtul al-Suq police station in al-Sharqiyah where the election was halted for two seats; the eighth constituency headquartered at the Bilbays police station in al-Sharqiyah where the election was halted for two seats; and the third constituency headquartered at the Bani 'Ubayd police station in al-Daqahliyah where the election was halted for one seat.

The interior minister is expected to issue an order at a later date setting the election time for the above constituencies.

Five Die in Election Violence

NC0612171090 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 6 (AFP)—At least five people died and more than 100 were injured Thursday in violence that marred the second round of legislative elections in Egypt, reliable sources said.

The most serious incidents occurred in the upper Egyptian city of Qina where five people died after being shot and ten others were wounded during clashes at voting areas.

Police arrested three people in connection with the incidents and seized firearms.

In the Dilta region, 105 people were hurt during clashes between residents of villages offering rival candidates.

Possible 'Arab Arbitration Commission' Discussed

NC0712115890 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 7 (AFP)—An Arab arbitration commission could be formed to resolve differences between Iraq and Kuwait if U.S.-Iraqi talks succeed and Iraqi troops withdraw from the emirate, an Egyptian daily said Friday.

The semi-official AL-AHRAM was referring to international calls for a pull-out of Iraqi forces and a U.S. proposal for talks in Washington and Baghdad to end the Gulf crisis.

The paper said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would assure Iraq that Washington had no intention of attacking if Baghdad complied with U.N. resolutions to withdraw and guaranteed it would no longer invade its neighbors.

The U.N. Security Council on November 29 approved a resolution sanctioning the use of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15.

Kuwait's former minister of justice, Shaykh Salman al-Du'ayjid al-Sabah, said Thursday that the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait could be subject to discussion after an Iraqi withdrawal.

"Kuwait will not cede one inch of its territories before an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal," he insisted.

Ahead of the invasion, Iraq claimed that Kuwait was pumping oil from wells on the Iraqi side of their common border and Baghdad has demanded access to two Kuwaiti islands on the Gulf to export its oil.

AL-AKHBAR Views Saddam's 'Puny Allies'

NC0712110990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses its belief that the aim of the recent visit to Baghdad by Jordan's King Husayn, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Yemeni Vice President Salim al-Bid was to urge the Iraqi president to stick to his stand, to tighten his control of Kuwait, and to convince him that he is in a stronger position than his opponents.

The paper's editorial today says: As usual, the role of King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, and Salim al-Bid was confined to listening to what the Iraqi ruler has to say about his new plan to deal with the noose tightening around his neck and to praise the leader's genius, wisdom, and heroic stand. The paper does not rule out the possibility that the three officials had convinced the Iraqi dictator

that the step taken by U.S. President George Bush was a sign of weakness and a prelude to a retreat in the international stand and an admission of impotence against Saddam Husayn's terrible power. It adds that it is easy to understand the mental state of the puny allies and their attachment to deceptive hopes and ambitions that are mere mirages because they have linked their fate to that of their leader.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that these leaders are still dreaming of the incentives and rewards they will get if Saddam can emerge from his current tribulation victorious. Thus they will continue to encourage him to stick to the stand of stubbornness and idiotic challenge to forces the likes of which the world has never seen before.

'Abd-al-Majid Views Peace Conference, Hostages

NC0612161290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the principle of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East is an important one and Egypt agrees to it. He added that this principle is also acceptable to the United States. Stressing the importance of making good preparations for this conference and of convening it at the appropriate time, he stated that he has not received any confirmation about the call for convening such a conference. He said that Egypt's stand from the outset has been to not link the Gulf crisis to the other Middle East issues.

Commenting on reports on releasing the hostages detained in Iraq and Kuwait, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the release of the hostages was dealt with in one of several resolutions passed by the Security Council, but what counts is implementing these resolutions.

Bush Urged To Reconsider Attitude in Region

JN0612155290 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Dec 90 pp 30-31

["Personal Papers" column by Ahmad Hamrush: "Spotlight on Bush's Visit"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush's visit to Egypt differs from the visits made by U.S. Presidents Nixon and Carter in the 1970's. He came to Egypt after signing the Paris agreement on European security and cooperation which stresses that the era of confrontation and division in Europe has ended; that relationships between countries will be based on respect, cooperation, commitment to democracy based on human rights, adherence to a free economy, and establishment of social justice. The agreement points to the importance of continuing efforts to support security and cooperation in the Mediterranean Sea since this is an important element of stability in Europe.

Bush's visit comes immediately after signing the Paris Agreement with Gorbachev and European leaders, an agreement that officially ended the cold war and opened a new page of international relations.

Hence the difference between our view of Bush's visit and those made by Nixon and Carter. There is no more polarization in international policy. The U.S. Administration is no longer expected to continue its old policy of aggression as it did when it invaded Grenada, and in Panama where it arrested its President Noriega and placed him in a U.S. prison, where he is still awaiting trial!

It so happens that Bush's visit followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait; this gave the United States a unique opportunity to fulfill the demand of the Gulf states and pool its military forces there as well as convince some European, Islamic, and Arab states to join their forces to defend against any possible Iraqi invasion.

Bush came at a time when the military buildup was almost at its peak and military action was possible, whether within the framework of the United Nations under its flag, or singlehandedly by the United States and the those states which responded to it. Then there was the possibility of American, Arab, and Islamic blood mingling in one joint battle. This was previously unimaginable; yet it has become a potential reality.

Here we wonder: Is it not the right of the allied forces to be open among themselves now that they have achieved this level of cooperation?

The sure answer is that openness is inevitably necessary, and that it is the basis for the continuation of relationships on constant principles.

Without a doubt the United States has had a long history of disagreements, contradictions, and conflicts with the Arabs.

Although we respond with good intentions with the international trend to end the cold war and establish the new world order, before we close this file we question the U.S. Administration as to how it will deal with regional states in the future. Will the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel continue to outweigh cooperation with the regional states? Will the U.S. Administration continue its political and military support of the Israeli Government without making any serious attempt to persuade it of the need to implement the Security Council and United Nations resolutions recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state? What is the U.S. Administration's concept of strengthening security in the region and protecting the oil against any threats? Does this require a continued U.S. military presence in the Gulf after the crisis is over, either through peace or war? These are questions that present themselves as the basis for any dealings in the future.

There are no sensitivities from the past which cannot be removed. Relations between the United States and the

Soviet Union, for example, have turned around 180 degrees; old enemies have become partners in building the new world order. Equally, Arabs are not frozen at old positions and slogans, however, they do not entirely submit to the mixture of U.S. temptation and force. Arabs seek peace, and the PLO totally agrees with this trend provided it can find a way out of the Israeli oppression and occupation that Yitzhaq Shamir is still marketing through statements that confirm Zionism's expansionist objectives and the desire to turn Israel into a regional superpower. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has objected to these statements, while the U.S. Administration has not said even one word of criticism against them.

Here the political equation becomes difficult, very difficult indeed. If the U.S. Administration continues to support and encourage Israel, it will continue to lose the Arabs' confidence and fresh contradictions will continue to surface. At the same time, there will be a departure from the objectives of the new world order that calls for peace and for giving preference to peaceful settlements and from the Paris Convention—the ink of which has not even had a chance to dry and that states stability in the Mediterranean is necessary for stability in Europe.

President Bush is therefore asked to reconsider his attitude on Palestinian rights and the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.

We do not call for establishing an organic link between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli occupation; we call only for weighing things with the same scales and for applying the international laws and charters on the two crises according to the same basis.

No advocate of peace in the region can ignore or relegate the Palestine question to second place, or dissociate it completely from the Gulf crisis.

We want a new leaf turned in Arab-American relations, a new page in which relations between the Arab order and the world order are established on the principles of equity, equality, and mutual respect.

It behooves us, the Arabs, to cling to the values of the new world order and the principles it imposes in terms of the need for respecting democracy based on human rights. We still recall that the Soviet Union's attempts to establish the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation for world peace were always met with U.S. rejection based on the principle that the communist countries were violating human rights.

What is the U.S. concept of dealing with the Third World countries? Will it jump over democracy and human rights that are regarded as a loose attire worn by these states? Are U.S. interests in dealing with these states based on keeping them backward and ruled by hated dictatorial regimes?

The pride in democracy and human rights expressed by the United States and other European signatories to the Paris Declaration must not be confined to the borders of these states, but should be the only method of dealing with all states, be they in the north or the south, developed or underdeveloped.

I do not know if Bush opened the file of democracy and human rights at all during his visit, or confined this discussion only to his Paris visit and his meeting with the leaders of Europe.

Bush's visit comes to a close when we are approaching the point of explosion. The military buildup has reached its peak before the outbreak of hostilities, and there is nothing to prevent a downward slip toward the war option unless Iraq realizes the consequences of this frightening, gloomy option; announces its response to the UN resolution; and opens a new page of dialogue instead of opening fire.

The Middle East region would enter a very bright era if the Gulf war was avoided; Iraq withdrew from Kuwait; a serious attempt was begun to end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories; and a new, peaceful phase begun to promote progress and construction.

Is this talk wishful thinking? Never, because no one will call for war if the Iraqi leaders heed the voice of reason before it is too late.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Arrives for State Visit

NC0612201390 Cairo MENA in English 1951 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Dec. 6 (MENA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salim al-'Amiri arrived here tonight coming from Saudi Arabia on a several days visit to Egypt during which he will attend the meetings of Ministerial Council of the Organisation of Arab Exporting Countries due to start here on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Preparations for Saddam-Fahd Summit Examined

JN0612175690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1713 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal at noon today. The talks centered on methods to render the anticipated Iraqi-American dialogue a success on the basis of the Iraqi forces' withdrawal and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait. They also discussed the aspects and results of current Arab moves aimed at finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis before the start of the American-Iraqi dialogue. This solution aims at preparing for a summit between President Saddam and King Fahd that would be a prelude to an Iraqi summit with the leaders of the Gulf states.

Roundtable Conference on Somalia To Convene 11 Dec

NC0612162490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that proceeding from its historic concern to safeguard Somalia's security and independence, Egypt is preparing to convene a roundtable conference in Cairo on 11 December. He said that this overture has received a positive response from the competent parties that agreed to participate in the conference, and that this conference will hopefully lead to national reconciliation in Somalia.

Libya

Al-Bishari Supports New Chad Regime

LD0612155290 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Libya today expressed its official support for the new regime in Ndjamena in a declaration made by the head of Libyan diplomacy, Ibrahim al-Bishari, who talked to correspondent Farida Ayari:

[Begin recording] [al-Bishari] We can see for the first time some hope for stability in Chad which experienced a 20-year civil war. Our policy vis-a-vis President Idriss Deby's regime consists in supporting him out of our respect for the Chadian people's choice, and Chadian sovereignty.

[Ayari] What assistance are you giving Idriss Deby? Could you give us an idea of the quantity of arms you have supplied him?

[Al-Bashari] These are questions emanating from circles hostile to my country. You know that President Deby could recover all his arms from Hissein Habre, who was chased from power by Chadian patriotic forces. As a matter of fact, he was alone with a tribal minority since his arrival in Chad until his flight when he was driven away by Idriss Deby's troops.

[Ayari] It is reported that there would have been some kind of agreement between France, Libya, and Idriss Deby so that the latter would adopt a flexible stand regarding the Aouzou strip. What is your opinion on this piece of information?

[Al-Bishari] We have already submitted our case to the International Court in The Hague. We are not backing out, and we are waiting for the court to do its work. It is basically a legal problem. We are now in a juridicial situation before the court, so let the court do its work.

[Ayari] As regards Mr. Goukouni Oueddei, you have said that you would not let him try to destabilize Idriss Deby's regime. How are your relations now with Goukouni?

[Al-Bashari] Goukouni is a friend of my country. As far as we are concerned, we will not allow either Goukouni or anyone else to destabilize Chad. Our policy will consist in encouraging [word indistinct] the national reconciliation policy of all the different Chadian tendencies with the Mdjamena regime. [end recording]

Progress Seen in U.S.-Libyan Egyptian Mediation

PM0612170390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egyptian Mediation To Improve Libyan-U.S. Relations Makes Progress"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources that this December will witness tangible improvement in the atmosphere of Libyan-U.S. relations which will result in Libya's moving out of the circle of states exporting terrorism in the region.

The sources pointed out that Egypt is conducting a mediation—positive to a large extent—between Tripoli and Washington which is expected to result in several extensive meetings in the upcoming period between Libyan and U.S. officials at various levels to agree on positive steps to improve relations between the two countries before the end of the year.

The sources said that Egyptian contacts with the two sides had revealed the U.S. Administration's and Libyan officials' full understanding of the situation. This is in addition to the elimination of many aspects of disagreement between the two countries as well as assurances that Libya will not be exposed to any threats in the future.

The sources pointed out that Egypt's good offices between the two sides were maintained on parallel lines with its endeavors to improve Syria's relations with both the United States and Britain—which produced the important meeting held in Geneva between U.S. President George Bush and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and which will be followed by important steps to restore relations between the two countries to normal early next year.

The sources also expect a U.S.-Libyan meeting to be held at summit level within the first quarter of next year, that is after all disputed issues between the two states are settled through joint meetings between officials. The United States is expected to announce Libya's elimination from the list of the states exporting terrorism shortly, especially as Egypt has concentrated on this point in particular during its contacts with the U.S. Administration.

Communications Agreement Signed With Sudan

LD0512175290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec, (JANA)—The minutes on an agreement on integration in the field of transport and

communications between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan were signed in Tripoli this afternoon. The minutes, signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Transport and Communications as well as brother 'Ali Ahmad Ibrahim, minister of transport, communicaitons and tourism in fraternal Sudan, cover several aspects of integration and cooperation: air and maritime transport, roads, posts, and communications.

Attending the signing of the minutes of the agreement were the brother secretary for affairs of Arab Libyan-Sudanese integration, and the ambassador of Sudan to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Information, Culture Committee Issues Appeal

LD0212145890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The General People's Committee for Information and Culture addressed an appeal to the citizens to transform the information machine into a mass rostrum. Here is the text of the appeal:

On the basis of the directives of the brother leader of the revolution, in his meeting with the General People's Committee for Information and Culture; to realize the democracy of jamahiri information managed by a people's committee from all the various sectors of society; and to transform all the information organs, whether visual, audible or written, into a true and open rostrum for all the masses and no one else—all the citizens, as they have confirmed their authority at the general people's committees and joined their professional trade unions and associations, are invited without exception to express all their opinions and various thoughts publicly, without restraint, and in a jamahiri way so to materialize the humane principles expressed in the Great Green Document for Human Rights in the Era of the Masses.

The General People's Committee for Information and Culture announces that any citizen, male or female, can contact the television, radio, newspapers, or magazines to express, talk about, or write his or her opinions or beliefs through them, within the context of the values of the jamahiri society and of the achievement of the historic principles of the international great al-Fatih revolution and its new civilized cultural project.

It is a historic opportunity for the masses of the great al-Fatih to participate in creating a true jamahiri information and to contribute to the information dialogue, as every individual could use the radio to express his or her opinion or to say and write what he or she wants.

It is inevitable that the jamahiri information, the information of the society of everyman's authority, will be victorious.

March forward, and may the revolutionary struggle continue.

Mauritania

Opposition Leaders View Coup Reports, Arrests

AB0612125690 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 5 Dec 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Mauritanian opposition leaders in neighboring Senegal have been giving their views about the alleged coup attempt and about the arrests. George Ola-Davies has been talking to them, and on the line Henrietta Cowling asked him what they were saying about the Mauritanian claims:

[Begin recording] [Ola-Davies] They are claiming that what the government is saying is not true. Rather, they are just trying to clamp down on the black Mauritanians that have been fighting for... [changes thought] liberation movements that have been fighting for a federation within Mauritania itself, and now that the government feels that they have got a very strong hold of many things in the country, they want to clamp down on them, especially people in the marine, and in the other sectors of the Armed Forces within the country.

[Cowling] Are they denying that there have, in fact, been coup attempts in Mauritania?

[Ola-Davies] That is exactly what they are saying. But, you see, when I came over to Senegal just over a week ago, I saw a Mauritanian delegation that came over to Dakar. What they came for, I would not say exactly, but there were suggestions that they came over to the president to explain that there is a movement planning to attack Mauritania from Senegal, but when I went down to the valley side I did not actually see any of this sort of movement.

[Cowling] Now, you are saying that these opposition groups were fighting for a united front. Does that mean that they were actually fighting with arms or were they just campaigning?

[Ola-Davies] Well, they were armed. They said to me that there is absolutely no way they can fight the Mauritanian Government any more because they have not given them the chance to explain [words indistinct]. Rather they go on arresting them, beating them, and so they have no other alternative but to fight them with arms.

[Cowling] Are these FLAM [African Liberation Forces of Mauritania] people in Senegal with the knowledge and acquiescence of the Senegalese Government?

[Ola-Davies] Absolutely not. It is a clandestine movement, but they are in the valley where you have lots of camps of Mauritanian refugees that are there. [sentence as heard] They cannot be within the soil of Senegal operating there legally simply because there had been an accord between the two governments, a nonaggression accord, and I think Senegal is abiding by that, and that is exactly why, in fact, the Senegalese Government

reported the arrest of certain category of people in the southern part of the country this morning.

[Cowling] But what sort of an organization is this FLAM? Can it be taken seriously? Do they have a lot of support?

[Ola-Davies] Indeed it does have, because it groups a lot of the opposition groups to the present government in Mauritania. But they are made up, actually, of the blacks in Mauritania. They say they are the majority in the country, but they do not have a say at all?

[Cowling] And what are their aims?

[Ola-Davies] Well, to set up a federation within the country, whereby, they can a!! live harmoniously without having to fight at all. But they say it is going to be unacceptable to the government, so, which is why they are fighting. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Morocco

Government Seeks Talks on Workers' Grievances

LD0712160490 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec 7 (MAP)—A ministerial committee chaired by Premier Azzedine Laraki meets Saturday with trade unions, employers and economic and professional associations for further dialogue between the cabinet and social partners, it was officially announced here Wednesday.

A communique released at the end of a cabinet meeting here Wednesday said the government calls social partners to submit, during the Saturday meeting, their grievances and claims "accurately" and back them with figures in all the sectors of interest to national activity so that these claims "be approached with the required seriousness, objectivity and realism".

The cabinet renewed readiness to seek appropriate solutions saying "no dialogue can prove fruitful if it is held under pressures or strike threats". "The resort to a general strike is not conform to the usage and practice in democratic countries, so the call for a general strike cannot be accepted", the communique said.

The cabinet said it will use all legal means to protect the freedom to work and sanction anyone attempting to disturb public order or the citizens' normal daily life.

Two major Moroccan trade unions, the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT) and the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM) had called for a general strike on December 14.

The dialogue initiated last week between the cabinet and different trade unions and social partners seeks appropriate solutions to social problems.

Privatization and economic affairs minister Moulay Zine Zahidi and employment minister Hassan Abbadi, representing the cabinet in this dialogue, met here earlier this week with delegates of the federations of various professional chambers and unions who expounded the problems facing their respective professions.

Czechoslovakia's Calfa Discusses Morocco Talks

LD0312204190 Prague CTK in English 1834 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Visiting Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa described prospects of further Algerian-Czechoslovak economic cooperation as optimistic. He said he held "tough but concrete talks" with Algerian Premier Mouloud Hamrouche on its extension.

He told journalists after his arrival in Rabat last night that Algeria promised to supply natural gas to Czechoslovakia under long-term agreements and that it voiced readiness to pay in the nearest future some of its financial commitments towards Czechoslovakia totalling 32 million dollars by the end of 1990. Algeria wants to pay off also other sums which it owes this country and which total more than 500 million dollars. They are payable by the year 2003.

Calfa stressed the importance of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in the diversification of Czechoslovakia's economic orientation mainly in imports of energy raw materials where Czechoslovakia depends on one supplier—the Soviet Union. Despite agreements on the level of premiers it is not keeping to the agreed oil supplies.

He said that gas suppliers from Algeria to Czechoslovakia will be technically and financially discussed by experts. Several transport routes are taken into consideration, one of them via Morocco and Tunisia to Italy and to Czechoslovakia. This issue will be solved within the Pentagonal Group whose members (Austria, Hungary, Italy, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia) are interested in gas supplies.

Calfa said that Algeria agrees with an exchange of natural gas for deliveries of Czechoslovak products, for instance small passenger planes, engineering industry products and food industry equipment. It does not require cash payments.

The Algerian side also proposed establishment of a joint Algerian-Czechoslovak bank as the only institution to settle accounts in the two countries' trade in the future. Calfa did not exclude the possibility of its realization and said it would be the first Czechoslovak-Arab bank which might help extend contacts with Arab countries.

USFP Backs Call For 14 Dec General Strike

LD3011205090 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 30 (MAP)—The Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-Socialist opposition) voiced utter

backing to the call for a general strike decided by two major unions, the Democratic Confederation of Labur (CDT-Socialist) and the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM-close to the nationalist Istiqlal Party). The strike is slated for next December 14.

A statement by the USFP Political Bureau run this Friday by the party's daily 'AL ITTIHAD AL ICHTIRAKI' said the decision to go on strike is legitimate and falls in line with constitutional provisions.

The statement stresses the "purely unionist aspect of the strike" and urges the government to meet the claims voiced by the CDT and the UGTM through the starting of "a serious and genuine" dialog to address all problems.

Sudan

SPLA Claims Capture of 10 Government Outposts

EA3011171490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] takes 10 more government stations in Western Equatoria. The main points of the news read to you by Mukii Batalli. In continuing operations, Bright Star Campaign command forces have since the fall of Yambio and Nzara taken five more enemy garrisons after fierce fighting, and five police stations have joined the SPLA without a fight. The army garrisons captured are: Bangassau, Li Rangu, and (Ring Nasi) in Yambio District in Maridi; Mile Ten and Mile Seven west of Maridi, and (Arthaka) northwest of Maridi within Maridi Town. The police stations, all in Yambio District, are: (Nabanga), (Nadebe), (Rindi Mvua), (Nabyapayi), and (Sikrit). Heavy artillery shelling and fighting continues within four miles of Maridi town from all directions.

In a related development, the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/SPLA] chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has issued orders to the Bright Star Campaign commander operating in Western Equatoria to recruit a brigade of 3,000 volunteer recruits in Western Equatoria so that the citizens of Western Equatoria play their full and rightful role in the people's struggle. The SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief has named this brigade the (Gudleh) Brigade in honor of the great Azande King (Gudleh). (Gudleh) the great belongs to the SPLA, not to the National Islamic Front, he said. And the SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, appealed to the youth and intellectuals of Western Equatoria in the countryside to take up this challenge and honor and join the (Gudleh) Brigade.

Report to the recruitment centers in Yambio and Nzara, (Ringazi), (Sakre), Bangassau, Ibba, (Nabanda), (Rasulu), Bahr Na'am, Mudri area; or report to any SPLA unit nearby or to the chiefs. This is the time to join the people's movement and play your rightful and historic role long denied you. Almost buried by the National Islamic Front and their local [word indistinct], the SPLA has unearthed (Gudleh) and restored him to his place of dignity, the spirit of struggle. The spirit of (Gudleh) is [words indistinct] and (?greets) us again in Western Equatoria. Join the SPLA. Join your movement and contribute to the building of the new democratic Sudan of unity, peace, and progress for all.

Ezob Reportedly Captured

EA3011171690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] takes another strategic town in Western Equatoria. The details: SPLA commando forces of the Bright Star Campaign Phase Three this morning at 0400 hours captured the strategic town of [name indistinct] strategically located at the junction of the borders of Sudan, Zaire, and the Central African Republic. With the capture of Ezo, the SPLA is now in total control of the whole of Sudan's border with Zaire. Ezo was the town where the government troops dislodged from Yambio and Nzara on 25 November this year retreated.

Garang, SPLA Operations in Country Discussed

EA3011225690 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1430 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: This is Anyanya II Southern Sudan Liberation Army [words indistinct] National Unity Radio, Khartoum, Anyanya Two Southern Sudan Liberation Army in this program. [passage omitted]

Fellow fighters: We must struggle to bring peace, justice and to promote national solidarity, social and economic progress of this nation. Fellow Sudanese, gallant combatants in the battlefield: We all know that the prime objectives and goals of the cowardly leader is (?raiding) cows of the people of the Southern Sudan, Blue Nile, and Kurdufan Regions; raping their virgin girls together with their mothers; infecting them with the deadly disease AIDS; destroying their farmlands and development projects.

Secondly, the tribal and robbery movement of Garang's objectives and goals is to deceive, trick, and confuse the Sudanese by false propaganda and agitation of Muslims and Christians against themselves, tribes against tribes, through Addis Ababa Radio. This SPLA [Sudanese people's Liberation Army] deception, lies, and tricks are nothing but a dispirited struggle to cover their deceit and robbery and also to distort the victories of the National Salvation and our Armed Forces. The Sudanese people together with their armed forces are capable, committed, and determined to clean the Sudan. We will never be shaken by the cowardly leader's tricks which they are preparing in collaboration with some of the foreign radio stations.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar recently visited Equatoria Region. He spent eight days visiting and acquainting himself with the security situation there and held talks with officers, noncommissioned officers and men in Equatoria military area. That included the surprise attacks launched by our Armed Forces against the robbery forces of Garang's gangs in which the SPLA rebel forces suffered losses in men and materiel, and the camps near Bilinyang were completely destroyed by our gallant Armed Forces. SPLA and rebel forces were taught a good lesson which they will never forget in their lives.

[Words indistinct] in Juba, Terakeka, Yei, Maridi, and elsewhere in the Southern Sudan; people of Equatoria, brave sons of Equatoria, brave sons of Upper Nile Region and Western Bahr al-Ghazal: You very well know the objectives and goals of the Dinka movement of Garang.

Garang only wants to destroy and rule you completely, and he is hired by the northern sectarian gangs who murdered Brigadier William Deng Nhial and carried out murdering southern intellectuals in Wau, Juba, Malakal in 1964 up to 1970's. Today Garang is carrying out the looting, raping, and murdering the people together with his sectarian northern friends who only want the land, not the Southern people.

Fellow Equatorians: When you (?see moves) of destruction by Dinkas in Equatoria, you must not be frightened because Garang's objective and goal is to shake and destroy your confidence in yourselves and prepare you to become a Dinka slave. This is also why in Equatoria Region he is propagating and agitating Equatorian tribes to fight one another. It is designed also by Dinkas to demoralize the sons of Equatoria. They bribe them with money and positions in order to destroy Equatoria and bring it down to their level.

We in Anyanya II Southern Sudan Liberation Army welcome Bahr al-Ghazal militiamen, National Defense Force and the Sudan Army, and the chairman and committees to defend you and your lands from (?pillaging) by the Dinka (?gangs) of Garang. Now our dear daughters in Yambio are being raped. Their homes are being looted by Dinka of Garang.

Fellow Equatorian sons: We must now come to our senses. The Dinkas have raped and destroyed our daughters and sons enough. It is our duty therefore to pool our strength together, execute it, cooperate with the Sudan Armed Forces against Garang and his [word indistinct] mongering against us Equatorians. Garang and his Dinkas are not fighting the Arabs at all, but the sons and daughters of Equatoria.

Garang has [word indistinct] you to (?destroy) Equatorians and not the Arabs. He is only talking about Arabs in order to get (?full) support from the African countries where he is now staying. We Equatorians can get whatever we want. We sons and daughters of Equatoria Region, we got it. Now also we have got our own Equatorian (?schools). What else do we want? Now we want to be free from the Dinkas and free from SPLA, free from Garang, free from these coward people. They know nothing except leading cows. We must get free from the Dinkas.

Fellow Equatorians: I think now our need is to push out the Dinka of Garang—these robbers—out of Equatoria. Sons of Equatoria: It must be done now by us Equatorians (?pulling) together, ourselves, to chase Garang out from Equatoria. Let him go [words indistinct] where the [word indistinct] will teach him a good lesson. [passage omitted]

SPLA Rebels Say Enemy Convoy Destroyed

EA0612155190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Yesterday, 4 December 1990, units of Al-Minshar [the saw], Bee, and Tonj task forces intercepted an enemy convoy that was moving from Wau to Bazia, and composed of three trucks, one tank and two motorcycles. That convoy was completely destroyed. The tank detonated a landmine and was destroyed. One of the lorries destroyed is No. 8777, one motorcycle No. 1144 Suzuki captured in good condition, and two enemy intelligence personnel captured and are now in the safe custody of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] at Wau, (Wau Chock) operational headquarters. [passage omitted]

Khalifah Cites Strategy To 'Impose Peace'

EA0112114090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 November (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Peace Department, has said that the ongoing war in the south would be terminated according to a political strategy which lies in [word indistinct] the movement's diplomatic, media, and military programs, in a bid to cripple the rebels' abilities and impose peace by force. In a statement to the newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI issued here today, his excellency stressed the need to establish this strategy in order to confront and fight the guerrilla warfare tactics, stressing that the implementation of the strategy would be accomplished by intensifying the presence of the Popular Defense Forces.

Col. Khalifah said that the war in the south is a clear ideological and cultural issue, tantamount to a conflict between truth and falsehood. His excellency stated that the revolution is committed to continuing on its path to peace and that nothing can stand in its way as long as peace is the best thing for the Sudanese people. He pointed out that the revolution did not anticipate quick results for its policies; rather, it has embarked on laying foundations, like bricks, for building Sudan. Begone the revolution after that, but Sudan shall remain. [sentence as received]

On the other hand, Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah reiterated the revolution's intention to realize lofty political and ethical goals in the new political system. On the guarantees of success for the political system, his excellency explained that these would be attained after [word indistinct] a charter based on a unified oath for all the administrative districts [al-wilayat] so as to facilitate the selection of a just ruler who would not be biased toward a specific party or direction. He further added that the oath's wording would be announced through various information media.

His excellency the Peace Department chairman stressed that in the coming stage emphasis would be made on arriving at the peak of democracy and popular freedom through the citizen's card [through being a Sudanese citizen] only, and not through any other considerations of personality.

His excellency pointed out that the revolution has opted for the system of congresses as a basis of consultation in all social, sectoral, economic, and political issues, stressing that they would work on [word indistinct] the task by establishing durable constitutional institutions in the state to run those sectors, with the aim of departing from the circle of despotism [word indistinct] under the civilized state.

PDF Proposed Program Plans for 150,000 Recruits

EA0112213490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0911 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 1 December (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), General 'Umar al-Bashir, yesterday morning attended the celebration organised by the leadership of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) marking the first anniversary of its formation. At the outset of the celebration Gen. al-Bashir has laid the foundation stone of the PDF's headquarters at Muhammad Natib Street.

The commander of the PDF, Brigadier Babikr 'Abd-al-Mahmud, addressed the occasion and reviewed the reasons behind the formation of the forces and the early response of the various sectors of Sudanese people to join the PDF. The coming period will witness the implementation of the proposed programme regarding the recruitment of 150,000 persons in the PDF, he said.

The occasion was attended by some of the RCC members, ministers, chief of staff and ambassadors.

PLO Envoy Urges Solidarity With Palestinians

EA3011143090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Palestinian ambassador in Khartoum, His Excellency Abu-Raja'i, has called for world solidarity with the Palestinians to take a new dimension, particularly during the developments of the Gulf crisis. His excellency said, during the commemoration of the declaration of world solidarity with the Palestinian people, that it was incumbent upon the world to realize that the time had come to be earnest in the implementation of the UN resolutions concerning the Palestinians with a view to protecting them from the Zionist occupationist tyranny. He said it was up to the world to put pressure on the USA, which ignores the rights of the Palestinian people and shuts its eyes to the crimes perpetrated against their holy places.

Al-Bashir Motives in Famine Relief Examined

EA0612151990 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In spite of the Islamic Front government's rejection of the implementation of Operation Lifeline Phase Two and its bombing of the relief centers in various parts of southern Sudan, Brigadier [as heard] 'Umar al-Bashir held a news conference yesterday to hail the resumption of Operation Lifeline Phase Two with all available means, both by land and air and with all routes open. There is nothing amazing about this if you know the reason for it: The reason is that the government garrisons in Bahr al-Ghazal and Malakal are extremely short of food. In Malakal there is now a famine. That is why Brig. 'Umar al-Bashir is having food sent without confessing the existence of a famine. It is worth mentioning that all the trucks and barges carrying relief supplies bound for the southern regions will have to fly the UN flag.

Islamic Front Arranges Migration of Falasha

EA0612151590 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] CNN has carried a program from British TV featuring some Falasha families that were taken last week to Tel Aviv via Khartoum Airport with the Sudanese Government's consent. The program is evidence that Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the National Islamic Front] is continuing his policy of transporting the Falashas, the policy he initiated in 1984 when he was a personal adviser to former President Ja'far al-Numayri. It is worth mentioning that these developments come less than a month after Al-Turabi met the leaders of the Palestinian revolution and launched a holy war [al-Jihad al-Muqaddas] for the liberation of Palestine and the Holy Land.

Saddam Envoy Meets With President al-Bashir

JN0512192390 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 5, INA—Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir today received in Khartoum President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Mr Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister.

The Iraqi envoy conveyed, during the meeting, a written message from President Husayn to General al-Bashir related to bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

Mr Hammadi told INA correspondent that he had had talks with President al-Bashir on means of promoting the Iraqi-Sudanese relations.

Mr Hammadi expounded that Iraq is committed to the respect of international law, U.N charter and resolutions of the Security Council if they were implemented in a credible manner.

He added that Iraq supports just peace so that the region would be spared from threat of foreign and American troops and added that Iraq is keen on resolving all Arab issues through peaceful means.

Mr Hammadi left Khartoum after his two day visit and talks with Sudanese officials.

Concludes Visit, Departs

EA0612153590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy prime minister, left Khartoum this morning after a brief visit to the country. In a statement shortly before leaving, the Iraqi official described his visit to Sudan as successful and fruitful. He said he had reviewed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, and Naval Colonel 'Salah al-Din Karrar, RCC member and chairman of the economic committee.

On the recent American initiative for solving the Gulf crisis, Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi said Iraq had approved dialogue in Washington and Baghdad without preconditions. He stressed Iraq's insistence on the need for the dialogue to cover all important Arab issues, primarily the Palestinian issue. He said: We shall go to these discussions with goodwill. He expressed the hope that the United States would abandon its insistence on preconditions, and that solutions would be found to all Arab issues so that permanent and true peace could be achieved. The Iraqi official did not rule out that by resorting to peaceful dialogue with Iraq, the United States was seeking justification internally for its hardline stance on the crisis so as to win over American public opinion.

On the relevance of an Arab solution under current circumstances, Sa'dun Hammadi said nothing stood in the way of such a solution and that it was feasible. He stressed that his country would support any initiative for Arab dialogue on solving the crisis.

Libyan Delegation Visits Radio, TV Stations

EA0612150790 Khartoum SUNA in English 0926 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—The visiting delegation of the Libyan JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY (JANA) yesterday paid a visit to the premises of Omdurman Radio and the television of Sudan where they were briefed by senior officials on the performance of the Sudanese TV and Radio. The briefing tackled the role of the radio and the TV in boosting the integration between Sudan and Libya, as well as prospects of bilateral cooperation in the sphere of audio-visual programs.

JANA delegation also visited the headquarters of the Arab Libyan-Sudanese Company for Development Limited and were informed on its contribution to the boosting of the Sudanese-Libyan economic and agricultural integration.

Information Minister Inspects SUNA Offices

EA0612143490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Dec (SUNA)—Professor Muhammad Khujali Salihin, minister of culture and information, has commended the ongoing efforts to promote and develop the performance of various departments and sections of the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY [SUNA] and provide modern equipment. This came during an inspection visit the minister paid to SUNA this morning, during which he met Prof. Abu-Bakr Waziri, the agency's deputy director general, who briefed his excellency on the ongoing efforts to promote and develop its performance. The minister of culture and information expressed the hope that resources would be made available to support the agency to enable it to fulfill its mission of properly serving the homeland.

Views Media Issues

EA0612152490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, minister of culture and information, and al-Sadiq Bakhit, press adviser to the Revolution Command Council chairman, held a meeting yesterday evening at the conference hall of the Ministry of Culture and Information with Sudanese who report for foreign newspapers. The meeting discussed issues concerning the need for a commitment to report the truth, (?facts) concerning the situation in the Sudan, the work toward (?rebutting) negative rumors, and [word indistinct] the press campaign directed against Sudan. The meeting affirmed the need for continued contacts with officials so as to arrive at a correct information policy, confirmed truth, and to work for the paramount interests of the Sudanese.

Kuwait

Bush Offer Called 'Ceremonial,' 'Pro Forma'

JN0612200390 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic
2 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Dialogue: Basis and Principles"]

[Text] Iraq has constantly called for the need to resolve the region's problems through dialogue and on clear and explicit foundations based on wisdom, righteousness, and justice.

Many international parties have imagined that Iraq's calls and initiatives stem from weakness and fear of this or that international power.

The U.S. Administration has been and continues to be, it seems, one of the administrations that rushed to assert its illusions and misunderstanding of Iraq, its historic leadership, and the ideas and overtures that leader President Saddam Husayn has frequently expressed with extreme accuracy and clarity.

Based on these illusions and misunderstandings, U.S. President Bush opted for the logic of muscle-flexing and threats against Iraq, motivated on the one hand by what he called "the quest for achieving America's leadership of the world," and on the other by incitement exercised by the British and Zionist circles and the encouragement of Bush's small agents, Husni and Fahd, who opened the doors of the region to him to dispatch his forces to invade the region and desecrate its holiest soil in holy Mecca and the burial place of Prophet Muhammad [Medina], may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

These illusions, misunderstandings, and the consequences that we referred to led to Bush's continued escalation of the tone of the threats and the aggressive buildup. When Bush obtained an "authorization" from the UN Security Council to carry out his sinful, aggressive plans and measures, his advisers thought that they should present through him an offer for dialogue with Iraq in the manner referred to by the statement issued by our wise leadership yesterday.

Evidently, Bush's offer was made in a ceremonial manner which is not devoid of the known U.S. arrogance, which maintains that air of bragging about concentrations, military power, and reliance on them. It is as though the U.S. Administration cannot talk with anyone without flexing its muscles. Thus, it is demonstrating a miserable habit with exposed aims.

Although Iraq knows all this about the U.S. overture and its background, it welcomed it in order to open a serious and profound dialogue, not a pro forma meeting in the American way. This is because Iraq believes in dialogue as a means of discussing major problems and issues in the region. Iraq also believes in looking for sound solutions. However, Iraq's favorable response to this offer is based on leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and on Iraq's just, honest principles in confronting the evil gathering. Iraq's aim is to see a spirit of security, stability, and peace prevail and replace the spirit of U.S. arrogance, injustice, and the futile desire for domination.

The U.S. Administration should understand the spirit and content of the statement of our wise leadership and should remove any unclarity of vision that would enhance its illusions and arrogance. Iraq's desire for the dialogue and its favorable response to it stem from important facts led by the fact that dialogue is the basis of understanding among human beings, that relations based on equality and interaction among nations and people must prevail in the world order, and that the injustice brought upon the Arab people, particularly the Palestinian people, must be removed.

Iraq is quite clear in this regard. Any misunderstanding of its stand means that Bush's desire for dialogue is based on and stems from weapons, concentrations, and arrogance. Such a desire will be meaningless and useless, and Bush will not find that Iraq would possibly fulfill it.

Demonstrators Urge War on Saddam, Not Iraqi People

PM0612132790 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic
3 Dec 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Organization for Islamic Action Says: Saddam Has Slaughtered and Executed Thousands of Iraqis"]

[Text] London, AL-ZAHIRAH—On the occasion of the huge demonstration staged in London yesterday in support of Kuwait's liberation, in which thousands of Kuwaitis and Arabs residing in the British capital as well as foreigners sympathizing with the Kuwaiti cause against the Iraqi military occupation participated, the Organization for Islamic Action in Iraq issued a statement in which it condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, noting that the Gulf crisis could ignite the entire region and expose its peoples to the dangers of destruction, including the destruction of their resources and economies.

The statement included the following:

"The reality about the Saddam Husayn regime is now clear to the world. All the masks behind which he hid his face have now fallen. He used those masks to slaughter thousands of the Muslim Iraqi people's sons and hang thousands of the best young men. This is in addition to 150,000 political prisoners, among them 30,000 of the best Iraqi women, now detained in his jails without trial. There are also at least 1 million Iraqis who have either fled the country or been expelled in successive evacuation operations unprecedented in history anywhere. Then there was the Iraq-Iran war, which came to inflict on the Iraqi and Iranian peoples further tragedies and more bloodshed as a result of the oppression of the Saddam regime, which successfully implemented an

imperial scheme designed to besiege the Islamic awakening and crack down on the Iraqi opposition seeking to establish democracy and endorse basic human rights in Iraq.

"Then, after the eight-year war, which for the people had no point, Saddam is today pushing Iraq into a new furnace by his brutal occupation of Kuwait, killing its sons, making its people homeless, and stealing its wealth. And we firmly believe that Saddam would not have embarked on that had he not received encouragement and support when he invaded his Muslim neighbor Iran and when all remained silent about his continuing and ugly crimes against the oppressed Iraqi people. And the sufferings of Kurdistan, Karbala', al-Najaf, al-Basrah, and al-Ahwar are only a few examples of the daily crimes committed by the regime and its men.

"Thus we urge the world, especially those who extol to Saddam his crimes against the Iraqi people and those who are remaining silent about what he is doing to the fraternal Kuwaiti people, to refrain from that injustice and listen to the grievances of the Iraqi people and their brothers, the Kuwaiti people. We urge them to stop deceiving their peoples and saying that what Saddam has done can be forgiven, so that they will not be partners in his crimes that have gone beyond the bounds of imagination.

"We call on the Islamic movements to support our oppressed people and back them in word and deed. This is because Saddam kills thinkers, ulema, and young believers. He demolishes mosques and bans Islamic books and God's rites. We also urge the states which probably hold the Iraqi people responsible for Saddam's crimes to be aware of the fact that the Iraqi people are helpless and are against all that is being done by Saddam, who rules Iraq with iron and fire with support from the hypocrite media and the technology provided for him by the West over the past 20 years.

"War against the Iraqi people and the destruction of their energies and material and scientific capabilities is not in the interests of the Arabs and Muslims, but, rather, a direct service for Zionism and imperialism, which brought Saddam to power and has supported him until now.

"And if the world wants war, let the target be the head of the regime, not Iraq and its people.

"The Organization for Islamic Action in Iraq which, together with the other Iraqi opposition groups, cited Saddam's crimes and warned about the expansion of crimes to the entire region, including those who backed and supported him in the past, today warns that his remaining in power would cause more sedition and other predicaments throughout the Arab world. And those who still support him today could be burned by his fire tomorrow if he emerges victorious from the present conflict."

Saudi Arabia

Group Claims Public Opposes U.S. Military Presence

JN0612150990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—An official spokesman for the Pan-Arab and National Struggle Front in the Arabian Peninsula has stressed that the entire Arab people in the Peninsula reject the U.S. military presence there.

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said that a wave of outrage and indignation is sweeping all major cities and that the regime of agent Fahd has begun to fear Fridays, as many mosque preachers have expressed their rejection of this presence and considered it a departure from the teachings of Islam.

The spokesman said that after the Pan-Arab Progressive Grouping distributed leaflets protesting the U.S. presence on the holy Islamic lands, alarm and panic spread among the officials of the agent regime, especially in the oil areas of Dhahran, Abqaiq, Ra's Tannurah, al-Khubar, and al-Dammam.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid, U.S. Energy Secretary Discuss Oil Market

JN0612103590 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins this morning. They discussed the situation in the world oil markets and the effects of the Gulf crisis on those markets, in addition to cooperation between the UAE and the United States in the field of energy.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Muhammad al-Sharqi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of al-Fujayrah; Shaykh Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the Presidential Court; Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth; 'Ali al-Shurafa, manager of the Presidential Court; Khamis Bati al-Rumaythi, head of the President's Office; and Edward Walker, the U.S. ambassador to the country.

National Assembly Allows 'Guests' To Leave

JN0712101090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—The National Assembly has agreed by a majority vote to give all foreign guests of Iraq the freedom to travel, and to grant them the choice of staying in Iraq as they wish.

In a session this morning, the Assembly discussed the message sent by President Saddam Husayn to the Assembly speaker and members in which he asked them to take their just decision to allow all foreigners, on whom a restriction was placed, to enjoy the freedom of travel and to lift that restriction.

At the beginning of the session, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih delivered a speech in which he said the decision to bar the foreigners' travel had to be taken in view of the threats against our homeland and people following Iraq's historic decision to regain the part severed by Britain in 1913 and in light of Arab and international conditions that the world is aware of. He went on to say that the decision was also taken to prevent any rapid military aggression and give the decision-makers in the United States and Britain enough time to think carefully about and assess the dangers that would result from their staging any aggressive war against Iraq.

He added that the other objective behind the decision was to draw the world's attention to the threats that would result from the U.S. aggression represented by the use of force and the economic blockade it imposed on our country.

He said the decision achieved a major part of its desired objectives. A period of more than three months has passed since the U.S. troops were deployed in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and war has not broken out. World public opinion has also begun to show clear opposition to the idea of war as a means to resolve conflicts, to reject the economic blockade, and to denounce the U.S. scheme aiming at starving the Iraqi people and depriving them of medicines and baby milk. Delegations from all over the world have also come to Iraq to express their readiness to send medicines and other necessary supplies through various channels to Iraq.

He said international organizations and peace-loving anti-war figures were engaged in many and varied activities to enhance fair peace opportunities through advocating and underscoring dialogue and negotiations as the right way to achieve a just solution to the problems of the region, on the basis of a single standard. Thus, they supported President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which called for a just and comprehensive peace for all issues of the region, especially the Palestine question, which must be solved justly if the other problems in the region—which are the result of this main one—are to be solved.

He explained that the possibility of war still exists and that threats to 18 million people in Iraq are still there. Furthermore, the possibility of death from starvation or disease, whose specter is still not far from our country, still exists. But the decision on the guests, having achieved most of its objectives, was taken basically from a humanitarian point of view.

The rapporteur of the Legal and Administrative Committee at the National Assembly then read President Saddam Husayn's 6 December letter to the speaker and members of the Assembly requesting discussion of the subject of foreign guests banned from traveling.

The chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the Assembly then explained the opinion of the Committee and that of the Legal and Administrative Committee on the president's letter yesterday, calling for measures to allow all foreign guests of the Iraqi people to choose between traveling or staying in Iraq.

Afterward, a discussion was held among National Assembly members, who presented their views on the issue of giving a free choice to the foreign guests of Iraq to travel or to stay. The decision was approved by a majority. Fifteen members voted against it.

Representatives of the people listened to speeches by Roberto Formigoni, deputy speaker of the European Parliament; General Miroslav Vacek, Czechoslovak member of Parliament and former defense minister; and Muhammad Husayn [Antonio] Inoki [name as received], member of the Japanese Parliament, who expressed great appreciation and thanks for President Saddam Husayn and the National Assembly for this humanitarian decision.

Roberto Formigoni said that this decision is a humanitarian test which will continue to be remembered by all peoples. He added: After I saw and touched the extreme suffering of the Iraqi children who were denied the medicines and food necessary for their lives by the economic embargo, and after I attended your debates and approval of this move, which is considered a clear and big signal for peace, I cannot but express full sympathy with you. I firmly believe that you have thus laid a firm and major foundation for the future and peaceful coexistence among peoples.

Gen. Miroslav Vacek affirmed that a serious dialogue aimed at finding an honorable peaceful solution to all problems is the only avenue.

He said: What we have witnessed today at the Iraqi National Assembly is considered an important move which is worthy of thanks and appreciation, and this should prompt all peoples to seriously work for peace.

Muhammad Husayn Inoki praised the National Assembly's decision to give the foreign guests the freedom to travel or remain in Iraq, asserting that this step is a peaceful action which expresses the faith of the people and leadership of Iraq in peace as a firm course for dealings among all peoples.

He referred to the suffering of the Iraqi people and the effects of the blockade imposed on them, especially the food and medicine embargo and the resulting deaths of hundreds of children.

He demanded an international conference to resolve all problems of the Middle East on a just and equal basis.

Italian, Czechoslovak, and Japanese parliamentary delegations attended this ordinary session of the National Assembly.

Salih Says Hostages Can Leave After Decision

JN0612173990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by unidentified correspondent on 6 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] His Excellency President Saddam Husyan has announced that all foreigners hosted by Iraq will be allowed to depart. Perhaps you can elaborate on the reasons underlying the decision.

[Salih] As you know, when Iraq banned some foreigners from travel, the idea was to give decisionmakers in the United States and the United Kingdom time to rethink their position on the chance they would opt for talks rather than war toward an all-inclusive, just solution to all the problems of the region. Since that decision was made, Iraq has taken many initiatives on humanitarian grounds and in deference to other nations and world figures, and it allowed quite a few to leave Iraq. Now that the decison has served its purpose, and that war does not seem imminent, and that it has been three months now, we found the time right to make such a decision, especially since certain Arab leaders have intervened—including His Majesty King Husayn, among others. That is the backdrop to the decison asking the National Assembly to debate the issue and pass a resolution giving the foreigners the choice of staying on or leaving Iraq.

[Reporter] When do you expect the National Assembly to convene?

[Salih] We have called the assembly to convene at 1100 tomorrow to debate the subject.

[Reporter] And when will the foreigners be allowed out of the country?

[Salih] After the National Assembly concludes its debate and approves the decision, it should be possible shortly for everyone to decide on whether to stay on or leave Iraq.

[Reporter] Thanks to Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of Iraq's National Assembly.

[Salih] You are most welcome. And will you convey my greetings to the brotherly king, government, and people of Jordan?

Call Renewed for Linking Crisis, Other Issues

NC0612183290 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities Thursday renewed their call for a link between the Gulf crisis and all Mideast problems, responding to a U.S. declaration refusing such a connection.

"The veritable link must be made in accordance with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's August 12 initiative," Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said at a press conference here.

He described this initiative as "practical, realistic and humanitarian."

Soviet Experts Leave Baghdad on Soviet Plane

JN0612213690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2118 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—A group of Soviet experts left Baghdad for their country this evening in a special Soviet plane, in accordance with the Revolution Command Council's decision to allow those Soviet experts to leave who wish to do so.

Japanese Embassy Prepares for Hostage Release

OW0712043790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0151 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 7 KYODO—The Japanese Embassy in Baghdad began Friday to seek information on organizing the departure of some 200 Japanese nationals held hostage or not allowed to leave Iraq, after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Thursday ordered the release of all foreign hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait.

Japanese Embassy officials said the embassy will wait to see what happens after the National Assembly approves Husayn's proposal, which it is expected to do on Friday.

There has been no information that some 78 Japanese nationals held as "human shields" at strategic military or industrial sites have been allowed to move since the president's announcement, the officials said.

More than 5,000 foreigners, including 3,300 Soviets, are still trapped in Iraq and Kuwait since Iraq's August 2 invasion of its oil-rich neighbor. It will be difficult for the foreigners to depart quickly and negotiations with the Iraqi authorities will be needed for an early departure, the officials said.

Masahiro Tofukuji, 54, branch manager of Marubeni Corp. and president of the Japanese Club in Baghdad, said he will keep a close watch on developments and wondered what kind of conditions Iraq would impose for the release of foreigners.

"We are saying now we will be able to be in Japan at Christmas and the New Year, but I will not count on it until we see the decision of the Iraqi National Assembly," he said.

The embassy said it will arrange a plane as soon as possible so that 41 Japanese who were given permission to leave earlier can depart Saturday.

A Japanese parliamentarian, Antonio Inoki, who has been here to seek the release of Japanese held hostage and to hold a "peace festival," gained a pledge from Iraq on the release of the 41 Japanese.

Inoki said Thursday that Iraq has offered to release five Japanese residents in addition to 36 of the 114 Japanese hostages held by Baghdad.

Assembly Speaker Receives Wives of UK Nationals

JN0612105790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with wives of a number British nationals hosted by Iraq. The speaker of the National Assembly affirmed that Iraq's peaceful trends and continuous efforts to achieve peace in the region and the world stem from its people's and leadership's belief in peace as a firm course and necessity for all mankind. Under this umbrella, the requirements of positive interaction and harmony in terms of interests will be available on the bases of equality among nations.

He noted that all problems in the Middle East and their repercussions on world peace and security can be resolved by applying President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative that is in harmony with the international charters and norms and the principles of justice.

The guests of Iraq expressed their happiness and appreciation for the Iraqi people for giving them the opportunity to visit Iraq, to become reassured about their husbands, and to know the facts and developments from a close distance, away from the deception methods practiced by the media organs to obliterate facts. They praised Iraq's peaceful initiatives, particularly leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative as well as allowing the guests of Iraq to stay or leave as they wish on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. They affirmed that the steps to achieve peace and coexistence among nations should include real and positive human interaction that serves the issues of justice and humanity.

CSFR Delegation Arrives With Medicine

JN0612140490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] A Czechoslovak parliamentary delegation under Miroslav Vacek, member of parliament and former defense minister, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days to Iraq. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Vacek said: The aim of our visit to Iraq is to hold discussions with Iraqi officials on developments in the region and ways to achieve peace. The Czechoslovak member of parliament described the recent UN Security Council resolution against Iraq as an uncivilized resolution which would lead to a destructive war for the region and the world. He stressed the need for peaceful dialogue to resolve all the region's problems without resort to military force.

The Czechoslovak parliamentary delegation brought with it a shipment of medicines weighing approximately 1.5 tonnes as a gift from the Czechoslovak Red Cross Association to the people and children of Iraq and as a contribution to breaking the economic and medicine embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

The delegation was received at the airport by the head of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Baghdad.

Vacek Criticizes UN Resolution

JN0612173190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—General Miroslav Vacek, former Czechoslovak minister of national defense, has criticized the resolution the Security Council issued against Iraq last Thursday. He said it is meaningless and will further complicate the region's problems.

Vacek, who is visiting Iraq, expressed his regret that the the Security Council is being turned into a platform for battle cries. In a conversation with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, he said that it was better for the Security Council to act in accordance with its peace principles and the concepts on which it was established. [passage omitted]

He urged parties interested in the cause of peace in the region to carefully study the Iraqi peace plans. He said that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative provides the best solution to all the Middle East's issues and crises. [passage omitted]

Confers With Minister

JN0612171390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received the Czechoslovack parliamentary delegation led by Miroslav Vacek. They exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf and the need to find a just, comprehensive and peaceful solution to all problems in the region in light of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Meets With Salih

JN0612172190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, today met with the Czechoslovak parliamentary delegation led by General Miroslav Vacek, parliament member and former minister of national defense, currently visiting Iraq.

They reviewed current international developments and the conspiracy being carried out by the United States and its regional agents, including its attempts to starve the Iraqi people through blocking their access to food and medical supplies and children's milk.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih emphasized to the guest delegation Iraq's full commitment to a just and honorable peace, and stressed the importance of dialogue as a civilized means of reaching this noble goal.

He said the United States must understand that what is at stake is an Arab issue, and as such is for the Arabs to work out, free of foreign military and naval buildups.

He stressed Iraq's abiding interest in building relations with all the peoples of the world to promote global stability and peace, away from the threat of war.

Gen. Miroslav Vacek pointed out the Czechoslovak people's deep belief in the need for a peaceful solution and the resolution of all problems of the region peacefully and without recourse to military force.

The meeting also considered ways to further consolidate relations between the friendly Iraqi and Czechoslovak peoples.

Japanese Socialist Party Delegation Arrives

JN0612191990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] A delegation of the Japanese Socialist Party, led by [name indistinct], head of the Party's International Bureau and member of the Japanese Parliament, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a several-day visit to Iraq.

The delegation was received by the comrade member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command's Foreign Relations Bureau.

'Aziz Meets With John Connally, Group

JN0612163590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1422 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Mr. John Connally, former U.S. treasury secretary.

During the meeting, they exchanged viewpoints on the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. They also stressed the need to resolve all the region's problems through peaceful means to avert war.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

European Parliament Official Meets With Salih

JN0612110490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received an Italian parliamentary delegation under Roberto Formigoni, deputy speaker of the European Parliament. During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the dimensions of the evil plot led by the United States and its allies against Iraq and the Arab nation. He also reviewed the effects of the economic blockade imposed on the people and children of Iraq. He affirmed the Iraqi people's desire for and faith in a just and honorable peace, and the importance of dialogue as a civilized means to achieve this noble objective.

Formigoni, head of the Italian delegation, affirmed the Italian people's profound faith in a peaceful solution to this problem on the basis of leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990.

Talks With Ramadan

JN0612074990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2208 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, this evening received Roberto Formigoni, deputy speaker of the European Parliament and member of the Italian Parliament and the ruling Democratic Party, and the accompanying delegation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked Formigoni to convey a message to Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, affirming the importance of joint action between officials in the two countries on all levels to continue developing present and long-term bilateral cooperation to achieve the common interests of the two friendly countries in harmony with the development of bilateral relations over the past years.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed that the peace-loving forces that are earnestly working for peace will triumph over the forces of evil and aggression. He noted that President Saddam Husayn has proven his love of peace and his earnest desire to achieve it through the initiatives and measures taken by Iraq and through his continuous honest and positive approach to methods that will lead to a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace through an in-depth dialogue.

Formigoni affirmed Italy's concern to develop its relations with Iraq, and Europe's awareness of the importance of achieving broader cooperation with Iraq and the Arabs. He asserted that Iraq is among the important countries in the Arab and international arenas. He said that the leadership of President Saddam Husayn always exploits resources for construction and development

purposes and for the prosperity of the Iraqi Arab citizens, unlike other rulers, who take resources for themselves and for their masters.

Formigoni said that Italian, European, and world public opinion is with peace, and that the calls for war are made by dictatorial leaders who neither respect human rights nor care about the catastrophes for humanity and its future caused by war.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN0612153690 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, today met here Mr. Roberto Formigoni, vice-chairman of the European Parliament.

During the meeting, latest developments of the situation in the region and means necessary for finding a peaceful and just solution to all region's problems pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's initiative of August 12 were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Minister Meets Capucci; Praises Christians' Role

JN0612202290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1507 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, met today with Hilarion Capucci, Jerusalem patriarch in exile.

The minister referred to the resolutions and recommendations of the Christian Conference for Peace, which concluded its work in Baghdad yesterday, saying that these resolutions and recommendations reflect the basic principles of peace included in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative.

The minister appreciated the role played by the Christian communities in the world and their communication of the message of peace to people loving justice and freedom.

Patriarch Capucci affirmed full solidarity with the people and leadership of Iraq in their brave confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist aggression. He praised Iraq's efforts to establish a just peace in the region through dialogue. He also praised Iraq's serious endeavor to spare the region the woes of war.

He condemned the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, especially the food and medicine embargo against the Iraqi people and children, which resulted in the death of 1,416 children under five years of age.

Patriarch Capucci condemned the recent UN Security Council resolution, which he described as a U.S. resolution aimed at encroaching on the dignity, land, and honor of the Arabs and all good people in the world.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Italian Ambassador

JN0612185390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1843 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Italian ambassador in Baghdad this evening.

The Italian ambassador extended to the deputy prime minister and foreign minister an invitation from the Italian foreign minister, who is the current EC chairman, to visit Rome and hold talks with him.

Peace Groups Urge UN 'Uniform Standards'

JN0612100290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The World Peace Council [WPC] and the Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization [FPSO] have urged the UN Security Council [UNSC] to adopt uniform standards for the implementation of its resolutions and not to use a selective approach, because this is rejected and unfair.

In a joint statement issued today and signed for the FPSO by its chairman 'Adnan Dawud Salman and for the WPC by its chairman Angelos Maheros [name and title as received], the two organizations reiterated their rejection of the hasty resolutions which called for the use of military means to resolve problems. Likewise, they warned against the dangers posed by this approach to world security and peace.

The WPC and the Iraqi organization agreed to view the principles contained in His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August as a firm guarantee for the attainment of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace to resolve all regional problems.

The statement called for the withdrawal of all occupation troops from the Arab region and for working seriously and firmly to implement UNSC resolutions on the Palestine question.

Pope Cables Support for Peace Conference

JN0612060490 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, INA—The Christian peace conference, being held in Baghdad, received today a telegram from Pope John Paul II.

In the telegram, Pope John Paul II strongly encouraged all those of good will to promote a patient dialogue which would take into account the legitimate interests of each one and placed confidence in the human capacity to

search for justice and peace confirming that the Christians, following the teachings of Christ and Gospel, would not be lacking in bringing their contribution of truth and of charity to the social [as received] life.

Official Confers With Indian Peace Delegation

JN0612061690 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, INA—Mr. 'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the organization of Friendship, Peace and Solidarity met, yesterday, a delegation representing Red Indian tribes, taking part in the international camp for friendship and peace, now staged in Baghdad.

During the meeting, Mr. Salman stressed that their support of Iraq and sincere endeavours to establish peace in the region, confirmed the deep relations binding peace-loving peoples of the world.

On his part, Mr. Kavild Crass Rob, [name as received] head of the Red Indian delegation, expressed thanks and appreciation for the Iraqi people and leadership, saying that they had confirmed their genuine desire to spare the region and the world in general the calamities of a destructive war.

Minister, Netherlands Company Discuss Cooperation

JN0612201590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1506 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah met today with Mr. Husmann [name as received], president of the Netherlands Boskals and Voelker Company [name as received] in the field of maritime drilling.

They discussed cooperation between the ministry and the company and ways of developing this cooperation. They also discussed the company's achievements, such as its projects with the ministry.

The minister of transport and communications said he appreciated the efforts by the employees of the company to finish the projects assigned to the company in the best way possible despite the circumstances Iraq is undergoing.

Mr. Husmann, the company president, affirmed that his company is ready to implement any projects for the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Saddam Meets With Mauritanian Ambassador

JN0512213890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Yasin Ould Didi, Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan handed the Mauritanian ambassador a message from President Saddam Husayn to Mauritanian President Maaouyia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya containing the president's greetings to his brother the Mauritanian president and Iraq's condemnation of the suspect attempt whose objective was to shake the system in fraternal Mauritania.

The message declared that any attempt against Mauritania's sovereignty at this point in time is a suspect attempt prompted by the imperialist Zionist enemy and its agents. The message also confirmed Iraq's support of the true Arab Mauritanian president, government, and people against all attempts to strike at Mauritania's Arab identity and distort its pan-Arab stands.

The message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Maaouyia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya contains heartfelt congratulations on the total destruction of the dirty conspiracy.

Dialogue Bid Shows Bush 'Surrendered to Wisdom'

JN0612194390 Baghdad Voice of Peace in English to Saudi Arabia 1704 GMT 6 Dec 90

["Message to American soldiers on the Arab land of Saudi Arabia from the sons of Mesopotamia"]

[Text] Europe goes one step further than the United States. France goes two steps ahead. After about four months of constant threats and mobilization of various kinds of arms and all sorts of (?severe remarks) against Iraq, against dialogue, against any kind of negotiations, President Bush surrendered to wisdom and decided to invite the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, to Washington to talk with him about the Gulf situation. It is very likely that this was not entirely Bush's decision, but rather imposed on him through political and economic pressures and the difficult time he is having with the Congress inside the States, and with the allied countries as regards the crisis in the Gulf from the outside. Therefore, the invitation to Iraq's foreign minister comes as the most (?profession) to this, meaning: dialogue, if the crisis is to be resolved. And this is exactly what Iraq has been asking to have ever since 2 August. And other people believe it is right to do this, where prejudice should prevent them from doing so, just because it was Iraq who proposed it in the first place.

On the same level, Iraq's reaction to the invitation was wise and was reasonable. It accepted an open-hearted and frank dialogue that tackles all the issues of the Middle East, and leaves nothing behind, because as far the Palestinian issue remains unsolved, nothing will change. The Europeans reacted in a way that reflected certain cleverness and skill. The French foreign minister confirmed that it is necessary to hold an international conference that would tackle all the issues of the Middle East, and that must go along with the process of solving the Gulf crisis together. In long discussions with members of parliament in the West European union, as quoted by the French news agency, Roland Dumas said that due to the increasing problems in the Middle East, the international society must put an end to the Middle East issues altogether, stressing on the Palestinian cause,

the crisis of Lebanon, and then the Gulf crisis. Dumas added that after a general congress is organized on these main topics, it is possible to hold smaller conferences on each issue to elaborate with its aspects, and then find the best possible solution to it.

The European Community decided to hold an official meeting with Iraq's foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, immediately after the end of his meeting with George Bush, in order to discuss possible solutions to the issues of the Middle East also. See, pals, what Iraq has been announcing for the last four months is at last understood and accepted by the international society. We have always calling upon the countries, forces, and peoples of the world to seek peaceful solutions and to avoid threatening or aggression. But some cowboys, still, could not think except with their gun on their side, and once you have removed that gun, you have removed everything.

Peace be upon you. Peace will get you back home safe, but war will get you back in metal coffins—Bush-style. Pals, this is the end of our message for tonight. Yours, sons of Mesopotamia.

Paper Urges Bush To Verify 'Good Intentions'

JN0612190790 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 2 Dec 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The War Option and the Peace Option"]

[Text] In view of the new world changes that have been going on for the past few years, dialogue has become the prevalent and acceptable principle throughout the world. Moreover, the world has come to view threats of military action and the use of force to resolve international problems as something of the past belonging to the cold war era, which was officially declared over at the recent Paris Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

However, what the world has acknowledged and viewed as a promising development for all of mankind is not so for the United States. The U.S. Administration tries to steer all international circumstances and developments toward its interests, applying means of terrorism and extortion against other states and international organizations. Thus, the United States has the image of the policeman of the world, seeking to oppress peoples and loot their resources under various pretexts.

Perhaps the dangerous policy followed by the United States in view of international detente and world changes is most evident in the U.S. position on the Gulf events, its occupation of the Arabian Peninsula and Arabian Gulf waters, and its preparation for aggression against Iraq.

From a position of strength and ability to repel the invaders and occupiers, and stemming from the humanitarian principles it believes in, Iraq called for a serious and in-depth dialogue on all problems of the region, led by the Palestine question. President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990 paves the way to a just and comprehensive peace in this vital and important region for the entire world.

However, the U.S. Administration not only rejected the Iraqi initiative, but responded to Iraq's repeated calls for dialogue by sending more military forces to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and escalated its threats of launching an aggression against Iraq. Moreover, it talked about plans for a permanent presence on Arab land and waters.

The idea Bush declared in his press conference the day before yesterday about a dialogue with Iraq comes under these and other circumstances created by the UN Security Council's approval—under U.S. terrorism and bribes—of the use of military force against Iraq. Bush's idea also comes at a time when the campaign opposed to U.S. war policy and military adventures inside the U.S. society and Congress is mounting, and voices are growing louder against the military option, to which Bush adheres and which has been approved by the UN Security Council under U.S. pressure.

At any rate, it is hoped that the U.S. President's idea is not merely a political tactic aimed at easing the U.S. and world public opposition to the war that Bush is preparing against Iraq, the Arabs, Muslims, and against peace itself. It is hoped that this idea is not an attempt to absorb indignation temporarily so that it will then become possible to execute the U.S. aggression and start a big fire inside and outside the region.

Politics has taught people everywhere that good intentions cannot be relied on through mere slogans. Everything can be verified through the practical implementation of good intentions. This applies to Bush more than others under the current circumstances. Undoubtedly, it is an in-depth and serious dialogue on all problems of the region that leads to the just peace aspired to by good people, not threats and separation of problems.

Paper Considers Long-Term U.S. Role in Gulf

JN0612085990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said the statements made by General Colin Powell, U.S. commander in chief, have confirmed the conclusion which Iraq has reached a long time ago; namely, that the United States plans to stay in the Arab region in order to occupy the oil wells and guarantee the Zionist entity's security. Powell said yesterday that "the need for keeping a significant U.S. military force in the region will continue even after the Gulf crisis is over."

In its editorial today, the paper refers to the fact that certain parties were deceived and put all their eggs in the U.S. basket. They thought that when the United States invaded the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], it

wanted to protect some rulers with shaky thrones or defend the international legitimacy.

The paper says that Iraq has warned from the beginning that the U.S. objective behind this invasion is to impose hegemony on the entire world by controlling the most important economic commodity—oil—by occupying its Arab sources.

Paper Says Nation's Military Power Deters War

JN0612091490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the course of peace, which Iraq pursued despite all the drums of war and clamor of threats, was, and still is, based on firm principles supported by military power and absolute determination to resist until victory is achieved.

The Defense Ministry organ says in its editorial today that the fact that Iraq's power and its fighting and military capability constitute a serious guarantee for peace has become a firm fact which no one can doubt. The paper stresses: This major force has led to the prevention of war so far. This is because the war adventurers fear the huge losses which the invasion forces, and particularly the U.S. troops, will suffer.

AL-QADISIYAH also emphasizes that while Iraq's power constituted a deterrence to the calls and drums of war, it has also provided the bases for certain international parties to think of peace and find the path of dialogue to resolve the crisis after these parties have discovered the strength of Iraq's position on war and peace and the reality of the bloody U.S. game seeking to draw the world into a war that will lead to catastrophes, which will not spare any area on this planet.

The paper reviews the development of events since the U.S. invasion of Saudi Arabia, the submission of the Arab nation's traitors to the schemes of aggression, and the issuance of the unfair UN Security Council resolutions. The paper says: All of this gives us the right to distrust Bush and his agents wherever they may be—in the West or the region. Those will even remain the principal enemies, against whom we will prepare all the power we can to remove their threats and injustice against the Arab nation, and particularly Iraq.

The paper recalls Iraq's principled position on peace. It says: The first condition that has to be met for that peace is that all problems in the region, at the head of which is the Palestine question, should be resolved according to unified standards and a comprehensive view and that an immediate end is put to the U.S. invasion and the Zionist occupation of the Muslim sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Jerusalem.

AL-QADISIYAH cautions that ignoring the problems of the region and entrenching the U.S. invasion and Zionist occupation of the Arab territory and Muslims' sanctities only reflects the evil intentions of certain countries, particularly the United States and its president, Bush.

It warns that we can never accept this. But, the paper goes on to say, we will insist on fighting the battle even if we have to fight a decisive battle, regardless of all sacrifices.

Paper Reaffirms National Principles

JN0612105890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that Iraq, which feels a great responsibility toward the region's security and stability and the need to spread the spirit of understanding rather than the language of threats, still maintains its policy of seeking radical and comprehensive solutions to the problems in the region.

In its editorial today, the paper says: Consequently, Iraq has called, on several occasions, for discussing all issues as an integrated whole and according to one set of bases and principles.

The paper adds: Iraq believes the region's issues and causes of tension are interconnected and cannot be separated. It also believes that any solutions must have the same standards and that selective or double standards should be avoided. Furthermore, if a radical solution is to be achieved, then the Palestine question must be the first issue to be resolved.

The paper says that Iraq has proposed a sound concept for moving the explosive and abnormal situation toward lasting peace and stability. Those concerned must understand that the road of aggression is closed and that threats and brandishing force have proved completely futile. They must also admit this before it is too late.

The paper adds that Iraq's firm principles will not change under any circumstance and that threats or foolish hints will not frighten Iraq or weaken its steadfastness.

The paper notes that concrete facts and wise, realistic behavior have proved that unjust force cannot triumph over the mass of steadfast believers who stick to their rights and values. The paper says that, if the United States brags about its military buildup and uses it as means of pressure and extortion, we say to it that Iraq can mobilize many times more than it can. Iraq also has large quantities of modern and effective weapons that can defeat its troops.

Egyptian Commander Urged To Reject 'Mission'

JN0612134690 Baghdad Voice of Arab Awakening in Arabic to Saudi Arabia 1953 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Directed at Arab soldiers]

[Text] To Major General Salah Muhammad Halabi, commander of Egyptian forces in the Arabian Peninsula, peace by upon you. You are an Arab officer with the a rank of major general [words indistinct]. Husni did not like that statement because his American masters did not like it. The Americans did not like it because he [the former commander of Egyptian forces] said that the mission of Egyptian forces in Hafar al-Batin is defensive and not offensive. Husni then has dispatched Egyptian forces on an offensive mission, which is, without any play on words or euphemism, an aggressive mission. He has tasked you, Maj. Gen. Salah Muhammad Halabi, to be the commander of this mission.

We do not think you are unaware that the objective of this mission is aggression on Iraq, which is an Arab country. This entails a clash with the Iraqi Army, which is also an Arab army. So, did you join the war college and receive your military education and courses of preparation and training for this purpose? Or, did you do all this to defend Egypt and fight its enemies and the enemies of the Arab nation? We do not think that you are unaware who are the enemies of Egypt and the Arab nation. You, as we know, joined the army when Egypt was at the peak of its struggle against colonialism and Zionism, and lived the victories and glories of that stage. Perhaps, the setbacks of that stage have affected and hurt you. We do not think that you have forgotten all this now, or that you are confused to the extent that you cannot sort out the enemies of the nation and its honest sons.

As we know, you are one of the Egyptian officers who fought in the October War. You were in one of the brigades there, and fought the Zionist enemy face to face. You could have been martyred the way brothers of yours of the sons of Egypt were martyred. So, have you forgotten all this, or do you still remember? Did you also forget that the first Arab sortie in the October War included an Iraqi squadron which flew from Egyptian airports to bombard the enemies' fortifications?

If you still remember all this and you are not confused, then you should define your stand, like any other honest Arab officer who pledged his blood for the homeland and the nation. You should take the right stand which puts your conscience at rest and is accepted by your principles and God, his prophet and the faithful. You should reject this dirty mission which Husni tasked you with because it besmirches your military honor and your history and harms your reputation and that of your family and incurs on you a bad historical record. People like you should not stand in the trench of Americans and Zionists, the enemies of Arabs and Muslims. People like you should not fight the Iraqis, his comrades-in-arms. People like you should not also be a tool of aggression on an Arab country, like Iraq. Otherwise, how could you fight an army whose men fought in all Arab battles and were in the vanguard of those who sacrificed in defense of the nation, its rights, and interests in its present and future. Does this have any source of pride in the future? Does it add anything to your military record while your conscience is at rest? Think again carefully, Maj. Gen. Salah, and take the right stand. Remember that if you take a different stand, you will contribute to creating a deep gap among the sons of the one nation and planting vendettas which cannot be erased by torrents of blood. This is what the enemies of the nation want. This is what the Americans want. This is what the Zionists want. This is what the agents of colonialism and Zionism want. We hope that you will not accept it, and that you will reject it. Peace by upon he who follows guidance. God fearing people will win in the end.

Paper Warns Saudi Arabia Against 'First Shot'

JN0712091190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0851 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Defense Ministry has warned Fahd's regime against intimidating Iraq or launching military aggression against it.

In an editorial commenting on a statement made by one of Fahd's henchmen to the effect that his troops are conducting exercises to attack Iraq, the Defense Ministry newspaper, AL-QADISIYAH, says: We cannot ignore such hostile acts against Iraq. We take them very seriously because their objectives and aims are suspect at this time in particular.

The paper does not rule out the possibility that those hostile statements and actions fall within the efforts to ignite war, or the possibility that Fahd's regime will fire the first shot to provide the cover for a U.S. aggression against Iraq, just as it provided the false Arab cover for the U.S. invasion.

The Iraqi Defense Ministry paper links the statements made by the officials of Fahd's regime with the U.S. Administration's plans and policy against Iraq and the region. The paper says: At the same time, we do not absolve Bush of responsibility for any foolish Saudi action. This is because we are quite certain that Fahd's agent regime does not have the courage to talk of war without permission or coordination between the two parties.

The paper warns that Iraq, which is very concerned not to shed any blood, especially Arab blood, will not allow that blood to go in vain. AL-QADISIYAH warns: Iraq will avenge that blood if there is aggression against it, whether by the U.S. invaders or the agent regimes such as that of the betrayer of the two holy mosques.

Paper on Ras Tanura Refinery Fire; Fahd 'Regime'

JN0612060990 Baghdad INA in English 1132 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 5, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad said that burning the giant Saudi Ras Tanura refinery embodied peoples rejection and indignation over their rulers in addition to stressing the incompetency of Fahd regime.

A paper article [as received] referred to the acknowledgement of the Saudi trade undersecretary that his government this year would suffer a 13 billion dollar deficit and said that the big deficit of the hireling regime lies with its awareness of being rejected on the Arab arena together with other corrupted and backward ruling families that had wasted the nation wealth on their entertainment.

The Iraqi paper stressed that among the major incompetency of Fahd regime was its being incapable of adopting any decision or performing any authority in the eastern area of Saudia where invading American forces are deployed.

Paper Analyzes Report on Death of Children

JN0612092190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has drawn the world community's attention to the fact that around three million infants and children under school age are threatened by the shortage of food, milk, and vaccines, which Washington is preventing from reaching Iraq within the framework of the economic blockade.

In an analysis of a report issued recently by the Iraqi Health Ministry, the paper says that the death of 1,416 children recently has put the whole world before a serious threat at a time when silence is no longer possible. It stresses that the tragedy of the Iraqi children has exposed the extent of rancor and inhumanity of the politicians in the United States and their allies.

AL-JUMHURIYAH refers to the World Children Summit held recently in New York. It says: Ironically, it was Bush who spoke before the conference about children's rights and means to protect them.

More POW's Return After Release From Iran

4 Dec

JN0612095290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The sixth group of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's], totaling 200 POW's, returned home on board a special Iraqi plane this afternoon.

On disembarking from the plane, the POW's asked Almighty God to protect Iraq and its unique leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. In statements to an INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent, they affirmed their great happiness to be returning to their relatives in great Iraq with its unique knight Saddam Husayn.

6 Dec

JN0612164190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—A new batch of 200 prisoners arrived in the homeland this afternoon on board a special Iraqi plane which flew them from Tehran to Baghdad.

The prisoners were received by the head and the members of the higher committee supervising the affairs of prisoners, and the War Victims Committee secretary and other members.

Saddam Cables Finnish President on National Day

JN0612100590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Finnish President Mauno Koivisto on Finland's national day. The cable states: On the occasion of the Republic of Finland's national day, I am pleased to send to your excellency my best congratulations, wishing you good health and happiness and the Finnish people progress and prosperity.

Netanyahu on Prospects for Mideast Conference

TA0612124690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Roni Daniyel and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Good day, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good day.

[Daniyel] You are well versed in the dynamics at the United Nations. Does the denial we heard from U.S. Ambassador Pickering allay your fears?

[Netanyahu] First of all, I was happy to hear the denial of a report that could otherwise have been quite worrisome. I think that there is a lot of rumormongering going on. We received no indication that the United States was indeed aiming toward fundamental changes in its policy. U.S. leaders have in the past spoken of the possibility that an international conference could be held in the future at a suitable time, or statements in that vein. We know nothing, however, of any U.S. commitment to adopt such a line right now.

[Golan] According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, at least—and you also have admitted as much—the idea of the international conference is not dead. Perhaps now they have floated a trial balloon to see what the reactions would be? Are you willing to declare here, on behalf of the State of Israel, just what our position regarding the issue of the international conference is now, after we have already fought against the dispatching of a UN investigative committee and against the ombudsman the United Nations may decide upon tonight? Are we opening another front?

[Netanyahu] We are not opening any front. Our position is unvarying. After all, we opposed an international conference in the past, and that position remains unchanged. I must also tell you that if this or that decision is made—and I would not advise that such decisions be made—we are not obligated to accept it. Israel has not been approached and such a conference cannot be convened without us, and therefore it will not take place.

[Daniyel] What is your opinion of Arye's idea that this may be a trial balloon?

[Netanyahu] I do not think so. I do not believe it, and I know from my experience at the United Nations in many Security Council sessions that rumors are rampant. Maybe somebody raised this proposal, but I imagine that if it cropped up it came from the opposition. In other words, what we are now witnessing are negotiations between the United States and the bloc of nonaligned countries, which to my chagrin are indeed aligned and their affiliation right now is with the Arab side. These draft proposals come from the other side, and the opposition may be feeding the media various reports.

[Golan] Are you willing to state here, Deputy Minister Netanyahu, just how Israel would react and what it would do in the event the Security Council decides this evening to send the ombudsman?

[Netanyahu] Once again, this does not obligate us. We are the sovereign state here, be it according to international law or according to common sense. The United Nations is not the body to guarantee the lives of Palestinians who over the past year, by the way, have been murdered by their own brethren and during clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. Of course, the very finger pointing against Israel and this political war and propaganda campaign against us proves that there is no sincere desire here to help resolve the problem. Therefore this does not oblige us and we will not act in accordance with such a thing. However, I get the impression that you are in too much of a hurry out of the assumption that this or that decision will indeed be reached. Judging at least from the original position paper the U.S. delegation was furnished with, there was no such inclination on their behalf, and I still hope that the United States will impose a veto if another decision that is harmful to Israel is taken.

[Daniyel] Mr. Netanyahu, I would like to take this opportunity to ask you about the situation in the territories. Have you also asked yourself whether we have moved on to a new stage and the massive use of firearms, or does the spate of recent incidents still not spell out such a transformation?

[Netanyahu] The possibility is there. I do not think that I could definitely state this on the basis of one incident, no matter how severe. I do think that we are facing an escalation of terror and violence in both Judaea and Samaria and in what was once known as the Green Line. I say this whether or not these attacks are orchestrated from above; in other words, the incidents, and especially the escalation in extremism coming from the Gulf through the PLO and its supporters cause this phenomenon. We will have to take measures in Judaea and Samaria and also prevent it from spilling over to our cities.

[Golan] The question, Deputy Minister Netanyahu, is how do you think we can prevent it from spilling over? Does it simply force [us] to adopt a harsher policy now that the Palestinians are done with stones and may be moving over to firearms, or does it call for a parallel effort on the political level to resolve the Palestinian problem?

[Netanyahu] I think that it must be understood that the violence will grow worse if people believe it can help achieve political objectives. There is always an additional political objective. I think we have to operate on two levels: one, stop the terrorist organizations and the countries behind them from racking up any political successes. Second, I think we have to act against the lone

knife attacker or murderer. Here I think we have to do two things: The first is something I suggested we do in the past and I am glad to hear that it is about to be carried out—simply to help streamline the processes toward permitting Israeli civilians to carry arms. We have many people who served in the reserves and in the Civil Guard, and there is no reason that someone who can return home with an assault rifle cannot also carry a revolver that is much more efficient and useful for self-defense.

[Daniyel] But it will be like Chicago in the 1930's, will it not?

[Netanyahu] No, not at all. Our citizens are responsible. There are no misfits here. We are not talking about gangsters, we are talking about the best kind of people, with the utmost responsibility, who definitely carry firearms for self-defense occasionally, but firearms that are not necessarily effective. I think that if we significantly multiply the number of people carrying arms we would increase our deterrence against terror attacks.

We know that some terror attacks were foiled by civilians. That happened on the bus attack as well. This is one means. The second means is punishment. I am definitely in favor of capital punishment in serious and exceptional cases of mass murder or a terror attack of an especially gruesome nature. I believe that the combination of these can both deter and preempt and may help limit the scope of the phenomenon, even if this is not enough to altogether eliminate it.

[Daniyel] Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, thank you very much.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

IDF To 'Fight Fire With Fire' in Intifadah

TA0612151790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] We will fight fire with fire, said Defense Minister Moshe Arens. He added that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will do everything to prevent murder attempts similar to yesterday's attack on a bus [in which three people were wounded] on the Ramallah-Nabulus road. He described the attack as an act of despair.

[Begin Arens recording] I think we have witnessed an act of despair, albeit a murderous act of despair. For about three years, the intifadah, which was waged with stones, tried to exploit the fact that we had imposed restrictions upon our response to violence. That was true for violence, but not for gunfire. During those three years, they had quite deliberately decided they did not want to test our response to gunfire. Now they must have reached a state of despair. If we are attacked with gunfire, we will respond with gunfire. [end recording]

The defense minister and the chief of staff visited the site of the bus attack and were briefed by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the Central Command commander, and by the area commander. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the IDF has set up an observation point at the site of the incident, and an Israeli flag is now flown there.

To Use 'Painful Blow' Against Firearms

TA0612135190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo says that if the intifadah moves to using firearms, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police will react with an extremely painful blow and the Arabs will find themselves on the losing side. During a tour of the north, Minister Milo called on the public not to panic and to have patience. He said that the police presence in the cities will be felt very strongly and that they will employ a large variety of new measures.

Sharon Opposes Conference; Sees Syria as Threat

TA0612154190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Sharon says that Israel will continue to object to an international conference as a means to resolve the Middle East conflict. He added that Syria is just as dangerous as Iraq, because Damascus has missiles that can hit any place in Israel and its chemical weapons arsenal is larger than Iraq's.

Our correspondent Mor Suliman reports that Minister Sharon was speaking during a tour of construction sites.

Spokesman on Shamir's Mission in U.S Visit

TA0712090690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Dec 90 pp 1, 16

[Text] Washington—Billions of dollars worth of U.S.-backed housing guarantees for Soviet immigrants will be at the top of Prime Minister Shamir's wish list when he meets with President Bush next Tuesday.

Shamir is also expected to allay U.S. fears that Israel is likely to launch a military action if the United States and Iraq reach a diplomatic solution which leaves Saddam Husayn's capabilities intact.

"The prime minister will make clear that we are very worried about the Iraqi war machine, but we are not going to use these worries to threaten the United States that we are going to raise our profile, or to change our policy about the low profile," Avi Pazner, the premier's spokesman, said, stressing that "Our low profile means that we don't have any plans or intentions to attack. We don't want to start a war."

On the eve of Shamir's arrival in the United States, Pazner said his primary mission at the White House would be to communicate the "difficult and serious"

consequences of the flood of immigrants coming into Israel, and the country's need for U.S. help in absorbing them.

"We are not going to request additional foreign aid grants from the United States, but we are going to ask for more loan guarantees in large amounts," Pazner told reporters at a news briefing yesterday.

Israeli officials have made it clear in the months since the U.S. granted Israel $400 million in housing loan guarantees for housing for new immigrants, that they saw the amount as a precursor of the billions of dollars in credits they would need to house the Soviet newcomers.

Pazner was careful in his remarks to avoid sending the message that Israel was linking the request for American aid to promises that it would continue to cooperate with the U.S. by maintaining a low profile in the Persian Gulf crisis.

No breakthroughs on the peace process are expected during this visit, as Shamir will try to play down discussion of the Arab-Israeli peace process, contending that any such conversations should not take place in the midst of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Ben-Aharon on Shamir's Upcoming UK, U.S. Trips

TA0512155590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Uri Paz and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Levi] Good afternoon, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

[Ben-Aharon] A very good evening to you, too.

[Levi] We would like to hear your reaction to Foreign Minister David Levi's remarks today that Israel will shatter anyone who surprises it with peaceful tricks. Does he mean also the United States, which is trying to pull peaceful tricks with Iraq?

[Ben-Aharon] I am not in the habit of commenting on the foreign minister's remarks. The foreign minister speaks for the Cabinet. We are currently talking about the prime minister's trip, which will begin with a visit tomorrow to Britain, and from there on to the United States. Among other issues, the Persian Gulf will also probably feature in his talks.

[Paz] Is there a chance that the professed low profile policy will change to one of a higher profile?

[Ben-Aharon] What the prime minister has already said several times is that we are maintaining a low profile. It serves Israeli interests and naturally also U.S. interests. Nonetheless, should Iraq threaten Israel, Israel will take all the means it deems fit to protect itself and its interests.

[Levi] Yesterday, Israel officially warned the United States that if it sees that the international community fails to show sufficient determination on the Gulf crisis, Israel itself will take military steps.

[Ben-Aharon] I am unaware of this.

[Paz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir leaves for Washington tomorrow [as heard]. I know my question has already been asked, still: On the eve of the departure, are there new ideas, is there need for new ideas?

[Ben-Aharon] The visit, as you will recall, is intended to give the prime minister the opportunity to raise the issue which is at the top of Israel's priorities at present, namely aliyah and absorption. He was going to receive the Jabotinsky Prize from the Jerusalem Foundation there. Only later the U.S. invitation for the prime minister to visit Washington came as well, to meet with the President, and he is also scheduled to confer with the secretaries of defense and state. We expect the issues that will be discussed to include also the problem of the Persian Gulf and Israeli-U.S. relations, including the peace process. What the prime minister will say has already been said before a number of times: Regardless of whether or not there is a crisis, Israel is always ready to renew the moves toward the beginning of negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with its May 1989 peace initiative.

[Levi] With your permission, one more question on the Gulf: Do you think that the latest U.S. steps indicate that it has no intention of removing the military threat, but only to partially resolve the Kuwaiti problem?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I think that President Bush's words speak for themselves: The United States is determined to bring about the departure of the Iraqi Army from Kuwait, have the Kuwaiti regime installed again, and see all the hostages released. And, in the midst of all this, as was stated several times, it is simultaneously necessary that the Iraqi threat to the entire region, particularly with nonconventional weapons, be removed.

[Levi] The question is whether the United States is actually doing that. Perhaps the prime minister is worried that the United States is not going in the right direction.

[Ben-Aharon] We understand from the U.S. Administration that, in view of the U.S. public debate and the occasional doubts that have been raised by the U.S. allies, as well as because of the desire to consolidate a united and firm coalition against Iraq, the U.S. Administration wishes to signal that it is ready, as President Bush said, to walk the last remaining kilometer to show that it is not giving up the last chance for a dialogue—not a dialogue for the purpose of ceding anything, claims the administration, but to give the Iraqi president a chance to accept the demands the United States had raised, which were endorsed by the Security Council.

[Paz] The question was whether there are grounds for the prime minister to be apprehensive.

[Ben-Aharon] I would say that we should definitely worry because Saddam Husayn has proved that he lives up to his threats. He has already hurt and committed deeds that are unacceptable in the civilized community. That is why we have every reason to be worried, and that is also why the defense establishment is prepared for any eventuality that may arise.

[Paz] Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

Source Says Arens Approves Deportation Plan

TA0712094090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 90 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] A senior security source yesterday said that the deportation of Palestinians from the territories would begin very soon. According to him, the defense establishment has finished drafting the deportation plan, which has been approved by Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other senior Likud ministers approve of the defense minister's measures concerning the deportations. Security sources, too, are unanimous about the need to deport certain inhabitants from the territories. [passage omitted]

General Shahaq Appointed Deputy Chief of Staff

TA0612171990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens and the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, today finalized the appointment of Major General Amnon Shahaq as deputy chief of staff and Operations Branch chief. They will soon decide on the appointment of a new Intelligence Branch chief, who will replace Gen. Shahaq. Our correspondent 'Ido Baum has more:

Gen. Amnon Shahaq was born in Israel. He is 46 years old, married, and the father of three. He served his compulsory service in the Paratroops Brigade, where he was promoted to the rank of brigade commander. Later, he was transferred to the Armored Corps, where he commanded a reserve division and a standing army division.

During the Six-Day War, Amnon Shahaq served as the commander of a paratroops company. During the Yom Kippur War, he was deputy commander of a brigade commanded by the late Colonel 'Uzi Ya'iri. After the Lebanon war, Gen. Shahaq commanded the Beirut and al-Shuf sector. In October 1983, he was appointed the Central Command commander. Recently, he has served as Intelligence Branch chief.

Gen. Shahaq has been awarded two medals for bravery in action. In his new position, he will replace Major General Ehud Baraq, who has been appointed chief of staff.

Ravitz in Egypt Not as Government 'Emissary'

TA0512082490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, deputy construction and housing minister, arrived in Cairo last night at the invitation of the Egyptian Government. He went as the leader of the Degel Hatora movement and not as an official representative of the Israeli Government. The visit was coordinated with the prime minister and with Rabbi Schach. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

The Rabbi Ravitz's trip comes at the invitation of Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser. It is not clear why the Egyptian Government has invited Deputy Minister Ravitz after a two-year break in which not a single Israeli official figure was invited to talks in Cairo. During his two-day visit in Egypt, Ravitz will confer with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. I am not carrying any political message, Ravitz stressed prior to his departure, but he did meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and discussed Israeli-Egyptian relations with him. Ravitz said he was not asked to relay any message to Cairo. The entire purpose of his visit is to bring about more warmth in the peace between the two countries. Ravitz will return on Friday morning.

Our correspondents Mikha Friedman and Gil'ad Levi have Rabbi Ravitz on the line live from Cairo:

[Friedman] Good morning, Deputy Minister Avraham Ravitz.

[Ravitz] Good morning.

[Friedman] Your visit is not just another visit by an Israeli public figure to Egypt. Rabbi Ravitz is the first Israeli politician to visit Egypt since Shim'on Peres was there two years ago. Of all the government ministers, the Egyptians invited the deputy construction and housing minister. There must be an explanation for that.

[Ravitz] I myself hope to get to understand the phenomenon. I hope that during the day I will better understand the riddle. In general, the declared aim of the visit is to create a dialogue with various Egyptian Government figures. I very much hope this marks the start or renewal of a healthy dialogue with the important figures in the Israeli Government. It is possible that they sought out the leader of a small party in this government. It may be easier for the Egyptians to begin with a low profile. I very much hope it will continue.

[Levi] Rabbi Ravitz, do you think you were invited as a representative of the Israeli Government or perhaps as the representative of a party with dovish views.

[Ravitz] I was not invited as a representative of the Israeli Government. I was told that, and such is the case according to protocol. I was invited as a party leader; that was the official invitation. I believe that in matters of diplomacy it is sometimes preferable that initial messages not be relayed through important public figures who make the decisions, such as the foreign minister or the prime minister himself. I am not exaggerating my importance; I am not on a government mission, but I have coordinated all my moves with the prime minister.

[Levi] Also with Rabbi Schach.

[Ravitz] Certainly.

[Friedman] Are the Egyptians aware of the central role Rabbi Schach plays in Israeli politics?

[Ravitz] Look, one of the surprising things about the Egyptians is that they are excellent in doing their homework. I would give them 10 for that. They read all the speeches made in Israel. For instance, they know all my speeches and sometimes ask me to clarify certain remarks. They remember my speeches better than I do. They probably also know about my expressed political positions. Today I am a member of the Likud government, a fact they are aware of.

[Levi] Rabbi Ravitz, as you said, you also conferred with the prime minister prior to your departure. Were you asked by the prime minister to relay any message to the Egyptian Government?

[Ravitz] I would put it the following way: not as an emissary. I am not an envoy of the prime minister. He did not ask me to be an envoy, but we talked, and I would say that we discussed Israel-Egyptian relations as he sees them, what can be improved in the relationship, and the reasons the relations are what they are today. [passage omitted]

Returns With 'Abd-al-Majid Messages

TA0612162190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, the deputy construction and housing minister, returned from his official visit to Egypt this afternoon. He brought with him messages from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to Prime Minister Shamir and to Ministers Arens and Levi. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that these messages also include an undertaking by 'Abd-al-Majid to deepen bilateral relations in tourism and trade, and to lift the limitations in those areas. The Egyptians are similarly suggesting that as soon as the Gulf crisis is resolved, joint committees be established to raise proposals on ways to promote the peace process.

Channels Purchased on Communications Satellite

TA0512175590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The finance minister and the communications minister have undertaken to purchase three channels on the Israeli communications satellite Amos, to the tune of $15 million a year for 10 years. Our correspondent Mor Suliman reports that a European country has also expressed interest in the purchase of a satellite channel. The Israel Aircraft Industries has already signed a memorandum of understanding with two companies in Germany and the United States, and an agreement on the construction of the Amos satellite at $200 million is expected soon.

Al-Qasim Reacts to U.S., Iraqi Moves on Crisis

JN0712085190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 Dec 90 pp 1, 14

[By Wafa' 'Amr in Amman]

[Text] Jordan welcomed yesterday Iraq's initiative allowing all Western nationals to leave Iraq and Kuwait and expressed hope that a holistic approach will be adopted to resolve the region's disputes and achieve comprehensive peace, since all the conflicts in the region have been offshoots of the long-ignored Palestine question.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, described Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative as "a basic and very constructive step that shows Iraq is serious about achieving a comprehensive peace for the region's long-standing problems."

He said the removal of the Western nationals issue from the agenda of the 17 December Iraqi-U.S. talks will help create a more positive climate for the dialogue, allowing it to focus on the basic issues. The dialogue should take into consideration that the region needs comprehensive peace and security and that peace is indivisible, he said.

Commenting on reports that the United States has called on the United Nations to discuss the possibility of holding an international peace conference, Mr. al-Qasim said that if the reports are true—and the United States has not officially confirmed them—they will reflect a genuine interest in solving all problems in the region. The step can be considered as a comprehensive U.S. vision toward the region's conflicts and its need for a full and indivisible peace.

Al-Qasim said that the entire world suffers from the instability in the region and that peace requires a political settlement based on respect for international legitimacy and the inadmissibility of occupying the territory of others by force. If the United States wants peace in the Gulf, he said, it should maintain credibility by applying world legitimacy throughout the region.

Kuwaiti Delegation Holds News Conference 5 Dec

JN0612081890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Dec 90 pp 1, 5

By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—At the end of a five-day visit to Jordan a Kuwaiti delegation which is seeking public support against Baghdad remained uncompromising in its demands for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from the emirate but shifted to a tougher position against the U.S.-led military build-up in the Gulf.

At a press conference it held before their departure for Cairo, the delegation's members also stressed opposition to military attacks against Iraq prior or after its withdrawal.

"We are against any assault to destroy Iraq... the destruction of Iraq will be a destruction of the Arab World," Muhammad Jasim al-Saqr, the former editor in chief of the influential Kuwaiti Al-Qabas daily, said stressing that the delegation's views reflected the popular and not the official opinion in Kuwait.

Statements by the Kuwaiti visitors, including former officials, opposition leaders and prominent writers, sharply contrasted with the toppled Al Sabah family's repeated support for military action against Baghdad.

The delegation's members, including the opposition figures, however, appeared reluctant to allow their differences with Al Sabah family to evolve into a serious rift which could undermine their struggle to restore Kuwait. According to one member of the delegation who preferred anonymity, critics and opponents of the government will continue to insist on the reinstatement of the emiri family in power and will address their differences after a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

But political analysts here believe that if the delegation, which is touring Arab countries, continues to make such statements Al Sabah family will either be under pressure to appease Kuwaiti public opinion or a rift might emerge even prior to an Iraqi withdrawal.

At the press conference here some members of the delegation implicitly challenged the Sabah family's claims that it had sought American help to liberate Kuwait.

"Regardless of whether Iraq would have entered Kuwait or not, there had been an American plan to send troops to the region. But the (Iraqi move) provided the U.S. with a golden opportunity to justify their step," al-Saqr said.

"They (foreign troops) are not here to defend Kuwait. They are here to defend their interests," he said after being repeatedly challenged by local journalists to prove that Kuwait was not involved in a plot to undermine Iraq.

But all of the delegates vehemently argued that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was not only a key to a settlement of the crisis but also crucial to Arab demands for the departure of foreign troops from the region.

Some even vowed to join Iraq in its confrontation with the West if Baghdad pulled out its army from Kuwait.

"In our view the presence of Iraqi troops in Kuwait increases the possibilities of an attack against Iraq. After the withdrawal of Iraqi troops we are ready to join an Arab front behind Iraq against the foreign troops in the region," said Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i, a leading opposition figure in Kuwait.

The delegation, however, remained firm in its refusal of negotiations on Iraq's territorial and other claims prior to a complete Iraqi pullout from Kuwait.

"Even if the Kuwaiti government accepts such negotiations we shall stand against it," said al-Saqr.

Al-Rab'i said negotiations will be possible only after an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Initially al-Rab'i and others indicated that all Iraqi demands—including its claims to the oil-rich Bubiyan Island and al-Rumaylah fields—were negotiable. But when pressed to be more specific he expressed strong reservations against Iraq retaining the two border strips.

"This is a matter of national sovereignty," said al-Rab'i, an outspoken critic of the emiri regime.

During its visit to Amman, the delegation was received by His Majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. They also held public debates, at which they were constantly challenged to condemn the foreign military intervention in the Gulf.

Many Jordanians who support a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait as part of a settlement which guarantees Iraqi security and economic concerns were disappointed by what they viewed as the Kuwaiti opposition's inability to disassociate itself from the pro-American policies of the Emiri regime.

Some political groups even boycotted the delegation for its failure to explicitly condemn the foreign military intervention.

The boycott, however, was criticised by many political activists—from the left and the right—who argued that it was undemocratic regardless the line the visitors represented.

During Wednesday's press conference, at the Plaza Hotel, a short interesting exchange took place between the Kuwaiti delegation and an Iraqi journalist which the Kuwaitis described as the first Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue" since the beginning of the crisis.

Al-Rab'i almost interrupted the proceedings to welcome the correspondent of the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"Your presence here is an indication that you recognise us as Kuwaiti people," said al-Rab'i.

"I am here because it is my right as a journalist and it does not mean that I recognise you," the journalist retorted.

"Never mind, you are welcome here: this might prove to be the first Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue," al-Rab'i replied.

The Iraqi remained quiet and only interrupted once to defend his country. The Kuwaitis gave him the floor and listened to his short remark.

The journalist was angered by claims by al-Rab'i that Iraq squandered its money and resources in the 1980-1988 war with Iran. "It is not Kuwait's fault if Iraq squandered its money and resources in war with Iran," al-Rab'i said.

"It seems that you have forgotten we were defending Kuwait," the Iraqi journalist replied.

A member of the Kuwaiti delegation later said that the team had been promoting proposals which involve Arab pressures on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and similar simultaneous pressure to seek international guarantees that Iraq will not be attacked during or after a pullout from the emirate.

Mubarak al-Duwaylah, an Islamist member of the Kuwaiti opposition, told the Jordan Times that the toppled Kuwait emir did not oppose such an arrangement.

"We have discussed the proposals with him and he did not express any objections," he said after Wednesday's press conference.

Earlier in the press conference al-Duwaylah implied that the Kuwaiti team was promoting a Kuwaiti peace plan.

"We have been presenting (Arab Leaders) with a modest formula for a settlement (of the Gulf crisis)," Duwaylah said.

House Speaker Interviewed on Domestic Issues

JN0612120190 Amman THE STAR in English 6-12 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] The newly-elected Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat has confirmed that the Islamic Bloc will join a new government so long as there was an agreement on the principles of action.

Dr. 'Arabiyat, who was the speaker for the Islamic Bloc during the first session of Parliament, stresses that he now speaks on behalf of the House as whole. He was interviewed recently by Khulud al-Ja'uni.

Question: What, in your view, are the priorities of the Lower House in its second session?

A: The House had many achievements in its first session. But because it was its first year these achievements, in our opinion, were below the high expectations of the people and this is natural. But in this session the opportunity is there to lay the foundations for a practical action to develop the work of the House and to identify the landmarks. In addition this is the time to build major and basic norms for the whole democratic process and the House is the eligible establishment to achieve this. We are trying our best to put the House in its suitable place according to the Constitution because it is (the House) an independent authority that is responsible solely for its actions in accordance with the constitutional framework. ...We seek to make this a functional authority and for it to be so, it must have the suitable tools. Among its (the House's) priorities is for it to be the source of legislation and the legislative authority should not be questioned by another authority about its functions. Therefore, we are working to establish a legal bureau to act as the authority in legislative issues. In addition we will develop the committees' work through a definite workplan.

After the session is over, we will be able to measure what has been achieved and talk in the language of figures about our achievements, instead of talking in a general language.

Another point is the development of the mechanism of work in terms of preparing the right conditions for parliamentary work life offices, services and communications. We also hope to improve another mechanism which is the internal bylaws of the House. We request that the bylaws be reviewed in order to ease up the deliberations of the House. We hope to separate between deputies' meetings with the public and their work on basic issues in the House. But we also ask everybody to help and participate because this is a public work that needs everybody's efforts.

Q: In your reply to the Speech from the Throne you made important demands like the abrogation of the Defence Law, amending the Labour Law and putting on trial those involved in administrative and financial corruption cases. What is your strategy regarding these demands?

A: There are real issues which we have demanded (to be pursued) and these issues are being followed up. We are following up on all the cases that have been discussed and referred to the government and some were put again on the agenda of specialized committees. As to the financial and administrative corruption cases, a permanent committee has been formed for this purpose and will be providing regular reports and the achievement of this committee will be made public every step of the way.

Q: How will the House handle the issue of Jordanian expatriates returning from Kuwait and who have been affected by the Gulf crisis. How will you pursue their problem?

A: This is a big issue that Jordan has faced. Jordan with its limited economy has borne all these damages, but we are committed to our principles and to serving our brothers. All what we have is for ourselves and our brothers who have been affected. We ask all brothers in the Arab countries to help in solving this problem and we hope that those who were the cause of the problem will help because this is a humanitarian, Arab, Muslim and patriotic cause that requires the efforts of all.

Q: And what about the problem of unemployment? Any solution in sight?

A: This problem is interrelated with other problems. It is a dificult problem. We have had an economic problem even before the (Gulf) crisis. But I think that with what material and human potential we have, we can with an honest management solve this problem as much as possible. We count on the awareness of our people and their patience and we will put all of our endeavors to solve this problem.

Q: We hear talk about forming a new government. What is the stand of the Muslim Brotherhood from the future government? And are you demanding specific portfolios?

A: I speak in the name of the House and not the Islamic Movement Bloc which now has its own presidency and management. I hope that now that the House has become a cohesive and unified body, there will be a government run by a cooperating team of ministers able to perform its duties in a correct manner and is also able to work with a cohesive house. The House and the government work both together to fulfil their objectives. We need a high-level relation of organization and cooperation to face up to the internal and external challenges.

Q: Will the Islamic Movement continue its demand for the application of Islamic Sharia?

A: This is a real issue which was put forward last year and we expected a response and clear movement (in that direction). The bloc has requested that all that harms the people's feelings be avoided. These are the people's demands. It will be good for all and (these demands) are for the welfare of the society as a whole. We look forward to working with all in a responsible and gradual way for the benefit of the general public.

Q: How do you see the relationship between the Islamic Bloc and the government in light of your winning the elections for speakership and the bloc's programme and demands?

A: There is no doubt that the Islamic bloc has the simple majority in the House, and because it has the majority it has worked with others and formed a coalition which was not formed the elections but for the welfare of the country and the House. We are opening a door to all our brothers in the Arab world to return to the basics and the common denominators and to set aside or postpone any differences. Let's start from where we agree and work together.

The programme of the Islamic Bloc is one of reform. Reform is the responsibility of the government and we believe in reform and work with those working for reform. We did this even after the movement had declined to join the government, but we said that we will support the government's reform programme. We hope that our cooperation with the government will continue, but we also hope that there will be a meticulous and realistic examination of the nature and size of reform. We want reform to be effective. Our work last year has been clear, open and serious but we need more.

Q: Does that mean that the Islamic Movement will not participate in the new government?

A: As I understod it, I think they will. But as I said, I speak for the House and not the Movement. However, I think in principle there will be participation will be for the sake of reform and nothing else.

Badran Criticizes Deputies for Statements

JN0612082990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter 'Abdallah Hasanat]

[Text] Amman—In answer to questions and charges ranging from cancelling martial law to curbing prostitution, Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday lashed out at deputies and described their speeches as a "show" intended only to embarass the government.

The most serious of a long list of charges, made by a number of deputies, accused Badran's government of failing to fulfil a pledge it had made earlier to abolish martial law. The prime minister said that these laws could not be abolished without a suitable alternative.

"The alternative is already with you," Badran said referring to a draft defence law that the government had presented to Parliament in its last session.

The prime minister said issues like national security could not be left "unattended to" in the absence of proper legislation. Badran, in his government programme last year, pledged to abolish martial laws within six months.

Answering a query by Amman Deputy Fakhri Qa'war (Democratic Bloc) on why the Kingdom continues to import American goods when many are calling for a boycott of these products; the premier said: "We in Jordan have not decided on boycotting any country."

He said Jordan floats tenders and accords contracts to the best bidders. Badran, addressing Qa'war, said: "I find this very strange coming from a deputy who just returned from a two-week visit to the U.S."

The Democratic Bloc called on the government to replace the existing 30-year-old labour law with a new one that would "address labour relations in view of developments in the country's industrial and social infrastructure."

The prime minister said that his government five months ago forwarded a draft labour law to trade unions, the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Industry for evaluation. But, he said, so far none of these bodies has responded.

In answer to a charge by Irbid Deputy Ahmad al-Kawfahi (Muslim Brotherhood) that prostitution was rife in the country and that prostitutes "can be picked up from the pavement," Badran strongly objected to the topic being discussed in Parliament and said that he "could not see prostitutes while moving in town."

"This is a Muslim country," Badran said: "I will not tolerate this; I have already instructed the police chief to be on the look out," he told the deputy during the two-hour session duing which deputies observed a two-minute silence when the call for evening prayer was heard.

Another deputy, 'Abd al-Hafiz 'Alawi (Muslim Brotherhood—Madaba), strongly criticised Jordan Television [JTV] for airing an interview with Palestinian poet Mahmud Darwish which 'Alawi said advocated "co-existence with the Jews."

"I want those responsible for airing the views of the Marxist Darwish be made accountable," the deputy said in a lengthy diatribe.

Independent deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi also criticised Jordan Television and demanded JTV abstain from transmitting the traditional new year celebrations from Europe.

Deputies Qa'war and Faris al-Nabulsi (Democratic Bloc) criticised the government for extending the term of the Greater Amman Municipality board for another two years and called for a reexamination of the decision since "the government earlier pledged to hold elections in Amman and other towns and cities."

Al-'Ahd Party Issues Political Statement

JN0612100990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 90 p 12

[Excerpts] Amman—Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, Jordanian al-'Ahd Party secretary general, has stated that the homeland deserves all our efforts to safeguard it, guarantee its continued existence, and protect it.

In a speech to the al-'Ahd Party's first dialogue conference, which was attended by about 1,260 party leaders, al-Majali added that this nation is capable of standing firm and overcoming all crises by relying first on God, and on the noble nature of the Jordanian individual, his belief in his national identity, his participation in the issues of his society, and his continuous and effective activity. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the party announced the following political statement:

We declare our commitment to responsible democracy and political pluralism, because they are the people's means of political participation. We stress the principles of commitment to the government as proposed by His Majesty King Husayn in his directives to the charter committee. We also support the principles of national consensus related to Arab and Islamic affiliation and the special nature of the Jordanian experiment. We support the political importance of national identity. Moreover, we stress the constants of the special nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the need to organize it in a manner that serves the Palestine question and the continued and strengthened existence of Jordan. It addition, we consider the constant Jordanian support for the Palestine question and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to their mother homeland as something that will lead to a positive relationship between Jordan and its people on the one hand and Palestine and

its people on the other, defining their roles, and reaffirming the significance of the common and united destiny of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

The first conference of the Jordanian al-'Ahd party appreciates highly the brave pan-Arab position adopted by the Jordanian people of all classes, led by his majesty the king. This position warns against the dangers of the conspiracy of the foreign invasion of the Arabian Peninsula, which has used the Gulf crisis as a pretext to carry out its age-old colonialist aims. These aims are to control the oil fields and Arab wealth, to avert any danger to Israel by striking Iraq's power and depriving it of its distinct military status that has been achieved through the efforts of its sons and the ambitions of its leadership and people.

The Jordanian position, which does not encroach on Kuwaiti rights, rejects the foreign military build-up against Iraq and calls for peace and a compromise solution based on an Arab meeting and Arab efforts. This position was met by Arab denunciation on the one hand and Arab-international economic embargo on the other, because it cautioned against the dangers of the military escalation and the dangers of a war that will engulf the Arabs' land, sanctities, oil fields, cities, and peoples.

Therefore, the opportunity for peace and the dialogue to begin soon between Iraq and the United States underscores the political importance of the Jordanian position, for which it has suffered. At the same time, other Arabs formulated their positions in accordance with their own profit, reducing their debts, and making money from the epic of war now building up around Iraq and the Arab countries.

We call on the Arabs to play an active role in consolidating the peace formula, lifting the dangers of war from the Arab homeland, and finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Despite the harm caused to the Jordanian people, the dangers that our Arab nation and Iraq will be spared through the peace option are unimaginable. We feel obliged to hail the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and leadership in the face of the threats and foreign military domination. Iraq's firmness and steadfastness opened the door for the peace dialogue, and will convey Arab rights to the world. The world has long ignored the Palestinian people's suffering, rights, and the plundering of Arab wealth by world powers.

We call for preparing the atmospheres for peace to succeed, and pushing forward the peace dialogue, not only with regard to the Gulf, but also Palestine and other complex Arab issues. The Arabs must play a role in support of peace and dialogue over Arab conflicts. They should not be satisfied with standing behind the superpowers. Arab peace efforts are the road to security and the real guarantee of repairing the harm inflicted on the Arab homeland and inter-Arab relations.

Measures To Counter Flour Smuggling Announced

JN0612081390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—The Ministry of Supply Wednesday announced a set of regulations concerning the sale of flour to bakeries and the public, and said that restrictions were introduced to prevent smuggling of flour, a strategic commodity, out of Jordan.

"The government is forced to adopt these stringent measures to control the sale of flour after it has discovered that flour had been smuggled to neighbouring Arab countries in large quantities over the past two months," the ministry's Secretary General Radi Ibrahim announced in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"We want to stem the smuggling of this strategic commodity, especially under the extraordinary circumstances Jordan is going through and at a time when bread in Jordan is sold at 75 fils a kilogramme, far less than any other country in the world," Ibrahim said.

He said that the ministry had noticed an increase in the sale of flour in August and September, but it was thought to be due to the presence of large numbers of expatriates returning from the Gulf countries, but when the increase in the sale of flour continued in October and November the ministry had to investigate the matter and found out that large quantities had been smuggled to other countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss, Palestinian Delegation Discuss Relations

NC0612204390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received a delegation representing the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF]. The delegation was led by the front's political bureau member Abu-'Adwah, and comprised of Abu-Khalid al-Shamal and Abu-'Ali al-Husam. During the meeting the current situation and Lebanese-Palestinian relations were reviewed.

Following the meeting Abu-'Adwah said: We emphasized to his excellency the prime minister the PPSF's support for the legitimacy on the Greater Beirut plan and we discussed the latest political developments.

Hizballah Withdraws 100 Gunmen From Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0612150690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul received a Palestinian delegation led by Abu-Khalid al-Shamal [not further identified] today.

They reviewed the Lebanon situation and the work of the ministerial committee on Iqlim al-Tuffah. The delegation was very responsive to seeing the success of the [Greater Beirut] plan and showed support for its legitimacy. It also expressed full readiness to facilitate the establishment of the state's legitimate authority.

Minister Dallul received a telephone call from Hydroelectric Resources Minister Nabih Birri. They discussed current developments, including the Greater Beirut Plan and the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

AFP has cited a Hizballah source as saying that Hizballah withdrew 100 of its gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday where the Lebanese Army is scheduled to deploy today.

States Al-Tuffah Withdrawal Conditions

NC0612180490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] With regard to the withdrawals from Iqlim al-Tuffah, Hizballah official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has announced that Hizballah gunmen will withdraw from al-Luwayzah, Mlita, and Jabal Safi within the next 24 hours on the condition that the Fatah Movement simultaneously withdraws from the area.

Afghanistan

Wakil Meets USSR Consular Delegation

LD0512175690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs, this afternoon met in his office with the delegation of the Consular Affairs Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which arrived on a working visit to Kabul, headed by [Ivan Pavlovich] Pogrebnoy, deputy chief of the department. In the course of the meeting, which was also attended by Boris Pastokhov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul, the minister of foreign affairs stressed the consolidation of mutually beneficial cooperation and relations, especially facilities in consular matters and various fields of cooperation between the two countries.

In response, Pogrebnoy spoke on issues of interest and promised all cooperation in this respect.

Najibullah Gives Instructions on Youth Work

LD0612195490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning with the representatives participating in the congress of the Union of Afghan Youth at Storay Palace of the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was also attended by Farid Ahmad Mazdaq, deputy chairman and member of the Executive Board of the Homeland Party, and Muhammad Ibrahim, chairman of the Union of Afghan Youth.

At the start of the meeting, esteemed Najibullah spoke about the role of youth in the present situation of the country and the importance of the first congress of the Union of Afghan Youth, and the value of its decisions and resolutions. He added: It is a cause for pleasure that the Union of Afghan Youth has become capable of taking organizational and social measures aimed at the defense of high national interests. Such measures will give the opportunity to the union of youth to expand its social basis as a social organization related to the younger generation of the country and to unite all the younger generation, regardless of any ideological and class prejudice, around the joint national and [word indistinct] aims.

Esteemed Najibullah added that we should not consider the constant and persistent work which lies before the union as having been completed with the approval of new programs and creation of a series of changes in the structure and method of activity of the organization. Each policy change is the cause for a number of major changes in all directions. Therefore, it is necessary that the Union of Afghan Youth should work comprehensively among the younger generation in order to further involve the youth of the country and to unite them around these new goals and values that conform to their class requirements and interest? Extensive work for those youths who are in regions away from state sovereignty and are under temporary opposition influence is to be discussed with all due need and urgency. Your union should not forget those Afghan youths who live away from the country in poor conditions and those who are wandering.

Having mentioned the pains and suffering of the war, esteemed Najibullah added that it would be better if your organization contact for cooperation the various youth organizations in the regions, and dissuade from resisting the process of ensuring peace those young people who cooperate with the opposition willingly or unwillingly for various reasons. The role of the young generation of the country is notable in the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. Your union is able to assist the state and government of Afghanistan by its extensive initiatives in this regard. The esteemed president added that in your new union there should not be any class, grouping, political, or ideological boundaries, which create barriers among the youths of the united family of Afghanistan. The Union of Afghan Youth should be transformed into a great school for teaching and fostering Afghan youth with the characteristics of Islamic morality, patriotism, bravery, heroism, virtue, firmness, honesty and bravery, honor, and self-sacrifice.

Esteemed Najibullah also gave the necessary instructions to the officials of the union in connection with improving and expanding the activities of the Union of Afghan Youths and creating sound grounds for developing and fostering the new generation.

At the end of the meeting, a number of the representatives discussed their views, proposals, and questions, to which the necessary explanations were given by the esteemed president.

* Mujahidin Agree to Elections Terms

91AS0258E London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the interim government of the Afghan mujahidin, announced on Saturday, 10 November, in Mashhad that the Afghan mujahidin have agreed to elections to determine the fate of Afghanistan with Dr. Najibullah in power as president.

In his talk, Mojaddedi expressed the hope that "after these elections, the regime in power in Afghanistan will fall and an Islamic government such as the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will take over the affairs of Afghanistan."

The head of the mujahidin interim government also stressed that the seven-part union of Afghan mujahidin will form a special committee to prepare for participation in these election with the cooperation of the Islamic Unity Party (the mujahidin party based in Iran). The

duties of this committee will include designating those who are registered as candidates to participate in the elections.

According to Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, Afghanistan's national elections will be held simultaneously in three countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, and electoral precincts will be organized in Afghan mujahidin camps in Pakistan and Iran with international supervision.

The agreement by the seven Afghan MUjahidin groups in Peshawar and the Afghans in Iran to elections with Dr. Najibullah still in power as president was announced after the latest conference of Afghan mujahidin in Tehran. At the recent conference in Tehran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic government's foreign minister, advised the Afghan mujahidin to accept the solution proposed by America and the Soviet Union on how to hold the elections in Afghanistan.

The government of Pakistan has also agreed to such elections.

Before this, the government of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran's regime insisted that before the national elections of Afghanistan the Kabul government must step aside and a transition government must be charged with holding the elections, but the insistence of the Soviet government and America's agreement persuaded them to acquiesce.

The plan agreed to by America and the Soviet Union, to which the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have also acquiesced, is that during the elections the Kabul communist government will remain in power and the only controls on the security forces will be in the hands of Dr. Najibullah.

The final date for holding these elections has not yet been set.

Bangladesh

French Embassy Denies Ershad Seeking Asylum

BK0712072090 Hong Kong AFP in English
0716 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 7 (AFP)—The French Embassy here Friday denied escalating rumours here that ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad might seek asylum in France or elsewhere abroad.

"Its a wild rumour," a senior embassy diplomat said by telephone, expressing surprise at the suggestions. He firmly denied the reports, saying "no such demand was presented to us by any one."

Dhaka was gripped with rumours that Mr. Ershad, who stepped down Thursday in disgrace under opposition pressure after nearly nine years of turbulent rule, might take refuge abroad.

Besides, France, other names being mentioned were Saudi Arabia and the United States.

No comments were available from the Saudi or U.S. embassies which are closed Fridays.

Since handing over power to opposition nominee Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at a low-key ceremony Thursday, the 60-year-old retired general who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup has been staying in his official residence at the Dhaka Cantonment Barracks with army security guards, informed sources said.

The rumours spread amid persistent demands from some politicians and student groups that Mr. Ershad be arrested and tried for alleged corruption and amassing wealth, a charge he denied while in office.

Acting President Promises Free, Fair Elections

BK0612135490 Hong Kong AFP in English
1329 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 6 (AFP)—Bangladesh's acting president, former Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, said Thursday his prime duty was to stage free and fair general elections after restoring a climate of peace and order.

"Please help in all possible ways in discharging the responsibilities reposed on me," he told a gathering of leading politicians, citizens, top civil and military officials and foreign diplomats.

In his first public appearance after taking the oath of office from Hussain Muhammad Ershad, who formally stepped down earlier in the day, Mr. Ahmed called for restraint and tolerance in the days ahead. He said that his sole responsibility under the constitution was to run the interim government and hold impartial elections within 90 days.

Watched by top opposition leaders including Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League-dominated eight party alliance and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led seven party alliance, Mr. Ahmed described the resignation of Mr. Ershad as a "victory for democracy."

His words brought ringing applause from the entire gathering at the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban presidential palace.

He said that he had accepted the invitation of Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia to head the interim government because of his support for the oppposition's movement to oust Mr. Ershad and restore democracy in Bangladesh.

Transfer of Power After Ershad Detailed

BK0612170890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The chief justice, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has taken over as the acting president. He will head an interim and caretaker government for holding free and fair

elections to the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament]. President Ershad resigned this afternoon and formally handed over power to Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who has been nominated by three major opposition alliances.

President Ershad resigned bowing to the demand of three opposition alliances and other parties. The brief handing over ceremony took place at the president's secretariat. The chiefs of three services besides some high civil and military officials were present.

Earlier, Vice President Moudud Ahmed resigned from his office and Mr. Justice Shahabuddin was appointed as the new vice president. After taking over as the acting president, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed drove straight to the shaheed minar [martyrs memorial] and placed a wreath there.

The acting president has called for maintaining peace and harmony in society to help them fulfill the task of holding free and fair elections with the shortest possible time. He was speaking at a ceremony attended by politicians, diplomats, newsmen, academicians and the elite at Banga Bhavan [President's house] this afternoon. He sought the cooperation of all political parties and people from all walks of life irrespective of party affiliations to help him hold free and fair elections. Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed the hope he would get sincere cooperation from every quarter.

The Awami League chief, the leader of the eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina; Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson and leader of the seven-party combine, Begum Khaleda Zia; five-party alliance leader Rashid Khan Memon; acting Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami Abbas Ali Khan, and leaders of other political parties, among others, attended the ceremony. The chief of army staff, Lieutenant General M. Nooruddin Khan; the chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mostafa; and the acting chief of air staff, Air Commodore M. Irfanuddin, were also present.

The acting president announced that all government offices would start functioning immediately and schools, colleges, madrasas [mosque schools] and universities would also reopen. Mills and factories should be kept running to maintain economic activities in the country. He said if we cannot start our economic activities forthwith, the pace of development would halt and the donors would also hesitate to provide us assistance. He said 86 percent of the development budget comes from the donor countries and hoped that the donors would continue to extend their cooperation. Appealing to the people to restrain their vindictive mood at this moment, the acting president said this would foil the main task of this [word indistinct] of victory. Our first job, he said, is to restore peace and tranquility in order to make the government functioning. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed urged the political parties and alliances to constitute volunteer corps to maintain law and order in their respective areas, which, he said, is essential for free and fair elections. He said he had no lust for power nor did he belong to any party. The acting president hoped that within three months' time, he will hand over power to the elected people after holding free and fair elections.

The acting president later held a meeting with the heads of diplomatic missions at Banga Bhavan this evening. He thanked the donor countries for their help and assistance in the development of Bangladesh and expressed the hope they would continue such assistance. The acting president said development activities in the country would resume by gearing up the economy.

Regarding the foreign policy, he said Bangladesh would continue to maintain its friendship with all countries.

The Jatiya Sangsad has been dissolved. The election commission has been asked to take measures for holding general elections within 90 days as per constitutional provisions.

The opposition alliances have called off all their programs, following transfer of power to justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. In a press release tonight, they said all offices, business organizations and transport will resume normal work immediately. They urged their workers to help maintain law and order and asked the volunteers of the students youth brigade to cooperate with the law enforcing agencies to maintain public peace and order. They urged people not to take law in their own hands while dealing with persons responsible for misdeeds. They said special prayers will be held in mosques, temples, and churches tomorrow for those who laid down their lives in their struggle.

Meanwhile, the combined cultural alliance, Bangladesh Radio and Television Artistes Coucil and Bangladesh Mukti Jodha [freedom fighters] Federation have withdrawn their boycott of radio and television programs in view of the political change and realization of their demands.

The colleges of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology—BUET—will resume on Saturday [8 December]. Residential halls of the university are already opened. According to a university press release, all the teachers have been requested to immediately withdraw their resignations. All classes of Chittagong Medical College will resume on Monday.

An ISPR [Inter Services Public Relations] press release issued in Dhaka today said a certain quarter is circulating rumor that some ministers, MP's [members of parliament], and other officials of the former government have taken shelter in the cantonment. This rumor is false, baseless, and motivated.

Commentary Urges Peace After 'One-Man Rule'

BK0612133190 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The march to a return to a democratic order has started. The masses have won their first decisive victory

against autocratic rule. The ground has been prepared for reviving and strengthening the institutions on which the foundation of a democratic dispensation is based.

Now is the crucial time for the nation. The transition from one-man rule to true democracy, which reflects people's aspirations, has to be orderly and peaceful. For this, the heroic triumph of the people has to be consolidated. The present success has been achieved at a tremendous cost. It was actually a mass upsurge that tore the nail of autocracy. The significance of the people's victory has to be fully understood. The people want the quick restoration of democracy, the creation of an atmosphere in which a free and fair election can be held. The right to exercise one's franchise, which has been so harshly robbed, has to be firmly established. They want the country's political institutions to be stable so that these can play their assigned roles in the strengthening of democracy in the country. In order to create the right environment for democracy and free elections, the rule of law has to be firmly established. Order must be restored in the society and the law enforcing agencies must be allowed to operate freely. Under no circumstances should any person take the law in his own hand or obstruct the process of application of law. If law and order is jeopardized, it will endanger internal security and ultimate national goal, that is restoration of democracy.

The leaders of the eight, seven, and five-party alliances have particularly stressed that none should take the law in one's hand. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the eight-party alliance; and Begum Khaleda Zia, head of the seven-party combine; in their separate addresses to the nation appealed to the people to remain calm and disciplined and not to be swayed by emotions. The two leaders have emphasized that no euphoric outburst should endanger the victory of the people. In fact, every citizen should now function as a watchguard against any kind of violence coming from a revengeful (?spirit). The law must be allowed to follow its course and in no way civilized and moral values should be put at risk.

It is not surprising that there will be some elements who will try to use the new situation to realize their own selfish interests to settle scores. It is the people's vigilance that can guard against such heinous attempts. The task will not be over as soon as elections are held and democracy established. It will be only the beginning of a major national undertaking. The democracy has to flourish and therefore the appropriate environment has to be strengthened through regular holding of elections, through the conduct of government according to the country's Constitution, and through the firm establishment of the rule of law. In a proper democratic environment, a nation can move forward toward achieving the economic goals. There are hard economic realities facing the nation. The economy has to come out of the present stagnancy, investments have to be increased, new jobs created, the population growth rate curbed. These are no doubt difficult tasks, but the country has economic potentials—immense potentials which can be put to use. These potentials can be realized according to the aspirations of the people within democratic dispensation. The national effort now has to be directed toward hastening the process of restoration of democracy.

Analysts Examine Army Position After Ershad

BK0712073290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 7 Dec 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 7 (AFP)—Bangladesh's 100,000-strong army hopes the part it played in the smooth handover of power here this week will restore its image as a fighting service and a popular, non-political national force, analysts said Friday.

The transfer of power Thursday from Hussain Mohammad Ershad to Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, one analyst said, would have been "impossible or may have led to bloodshed" were it not for the armed forces.

The crucial part, he and other experts agreed, was played by the army chief of staff, 53-year-old Lieutenant General Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan.

Lt. Gen. Khan, who took his current post on August 31, was credited for keeping the army out of the firing line as an opposition campaign to oust Mr. Ershad—himself a former military man—gathered steam from October 10 with mass protests and strikes.

The army's role was seen as crucial in the days after Mr. Ershad declared a state of emergency on November 27 and ordered the troops to deal with civil unrest against his government.

Opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and students appealed to security forces and the army to remain neutral as tension mounted ahead of Mr. Ershad's decision Tuesday to step down.

Initially, the troops who came out to back police and paramilitary forces took a tough stand, opening fire on demonstrators and contributing to the death of up to 100 people, according to opposition sources.

But they later adopted a more discreet attitude and have reportedly told the civilian authorities that they no longer want to be involved in handling day-to-day policing duties.

Analysts said the army tilted toward the opposition after the Defence Ministry, in a surprise move, called on anti-Ershad forces to cancel a planned strike on November 21 because it coincided with Armed Forces Day, and they complied.

It was the the first official contact between the military and the opposition called off the strike, saying it had nothing against the armed forces, but that they should stop cooperating with Mr. Ershad's regime.

"We did our duty in achieving the goal desired by the people, and Allah helped us in getting over the problem," Lt. Gen. Khan said Thursday

The armed forces have an important position in a country such as Bangladesh, and they "behaved very maturely, which helped us a lot," he said.

Asked if he had suggested that Mr. Ershad quit, lt. Gen. Khan replied: "No, he understood himself."

He ignored questions about whether he had any political plans of his own, after saying earlier in reply to another question that he was "just a paid servant ... doing only our job."

Military support for Mr. Ershad, according to insiders, began to wane as he emerged more and more as a liability—a leader able to restore neither the image of the armed forces, nor law and order in the country.

The sources said the army was now undecided on Mr. Ershad's future, with one group reportedly favoring exile abroad and another wanting him tried to clear the bad name his eight years of leadership have given the army.

The military here first gained popularity during the Second Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, when the country was still East Pakistan, then during the third war between the neighbors in 1971, which ended with Bangladesh's proclation of independence.

But involvement in politics and allegations of graft in the turbulent 1970s, followed by the bloodless 1982 coup that brought then Lt. Gen. Ershad to power, badly tarnished its image.

This was possibly a major point in Lt. Gen. Khan's mind when he decided to keep the military in the background as the opposition and Mr. Ershad faced off, analysts said.

Lt. Gen. Khan, a civil engineer by training, entered the army as an officer in the engineers' corps and only switched to the fighting forces two years ago.

Described by friends as a polite, soft-spoken man, he commanded the 9th division, considered Bangladesh's most powerful fighting force, until he became army chief of staff little more than three months ago.

He told state-run television Thursday that the army had "expedited and cooperated" in the campaign for democracy and that he was grateful for the opportunity.

"We hope that the caretaker government will meticulously conduct (elections for) a people's parliament and, god willing, the defence forces will be ready to help, neutrally," he said.

One-man rule is a thing of the past everywhere in the world, he said, adding that the army, as part of the people of Bangladesh, had taken the right step in not opposing the popular upsurge against Mr. Ershad.

But he promised that people facing charges of corruption "will not get any leniency."

"The laws of the land will deal with them," Gen. Khan said.

Armed Forces' Support For Democracy Noted

BK0712132590 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has called for peace and harmony in the society and the quick return to normalcy. His call, which came soon after his assumption of office, was echoed by the country's political parties and their leaders. The mass upsurge which has created the condition for a return to democracy is a reflection of the aspirations of the people. The nation wants that a representative government is quickly established through free and fair elections. It is the main task of interim caretaker government to hold the elections for forming a sovereign parliament. Justice Ahmed has sought the cooperation of the people, the political parties, and all other groups to help him in fulfilling the crucial responsibility. History has thrust upon his government to realize the national goal—that is, restoration of democracy. But this task can be achieved if there is complete peace in the society, if the rule of law is firmly established, and the economy started.

The election is due within the next 90 days. A firm date is expected to be announced by the Election Commission which itself has to take all precautionary measures to ensure a fair vote. The important thing is the establishment of the climate in which citizens can freely exercise their right of franchise. This is the principal condition for the sustenance of democracy. For many years the sanctity of the electoral system had been violated. The people were losing their confidence in the electoral system; violence and the threat of violence scared the ordinary mass of voters away from the polling stations. The respect for the vote has to be reestablished. Justice Shahabuddin has emphasized that he would require unstinted support from all quarters to make elections free and fair and create an environment in which power can be transferred to the elected representative government.

The three chiefs of the armed forces, in separate interviews, have pledged their support to the establishment of democracy and constitutional rule. The armed forces, as before, performed the historic role in the peaceful transfer of power after the popular uprising. Their role has been appreciated by the masses. Our armed forces were established during the liberation war, and in our independence struggle against the Pakistani occupation forces the valiant officers and men played a crucial role. In all critical junctures of national history, the armed forces have been with the people. They have proved to be a truly people's army.

With the strong national consensus in favor of democracy, it should not be difficult to set up a democratic order which may raise the hopes of the people. There is no doubt that only a representative government accountable to the people can ensure development and progress. Authoritarianism usually spawns corruption, abuse of power, mismanagement, which derail progress. There is a clear verdict from the people against any kind of one-man rule.

Immediately, the economy has to be restarted and normalcy in life restored. For this, government offices, banks, businesses, and educational institutions must start functioning. Both the public and private sector transport systems have to operate normally so that people and goods can move freely. All obstacles to trade have to be removed. The confidence in the economy has to be reestablished and the stagnancy that had [word indistinct] must be erased by stimulating demand and production. The acting president has underscored the need for immediately returning to normal activities. In an address at Bangabhavan [president's house], he called upon the people to put the economy back on the rails. Bangladesh's development partners who have been helping the country progress toward self-reliance will certainly continue with their support. Foreign investors will feel encouraged to come to Bangladesh and help in the country's economic reconstruction in a democratic atmosphere.

India

Iraq Asked To Release Contract Nurses

BK0712083490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] India is considering a proposal to reinforce the Red Cross team currently supervising the unloading and distribution of the remaining food items on board the vessel, Vishwa Siddhi, in Iraq. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday, some Indian Red Cross [IRC] personnel have returned home about a decision to send another group of IRC officials is yet to be taken [sentence as heard].

The spokesman also said India is awaiting a response from the Iraqi Government to its request that a group of Indian nurses be allowed to return home without meeting their two-year employment contractual obligation.

Acting Bangladesh President Sent Greetings

BK0612160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, the chief justice, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, has taken over as the acting president of the country following the resignation of President Ershad. Earlier, Mr. Shahabuddin was sworn in as the vice president at a simple ceremony in Dhaka today. The three major opposition alliances nominated him as a consensus candidate for the vice president.

The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has wished success for the efforts in Bangladesh to usher in a genuine democratic form of government based on free and fair elections. Conveying his greetings to the acting president of Bangladesh, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, he said in a message that he looks forward to further strengthening of the ties between the two countries.

In his message of felicitation, the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, hoped that Mr. Ahmed's guidance to Bangladesh will prove invaluable in its march toward democracy at this juncture. He also expressed confidence that the friendly relations between India and Bangladesh will continue to prosper.

Several political parties have welcomed the developments in Bangladesh. In separate statements, the CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] expressed the hope that the elections will be free and fair and usher in a new era of democratic developments.

Communist Parties Urge Bangladesh Unity

BK0612120790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have called upon the people of Bangladesh to maintain unity which brought, what the party has described, collapse of Ershad's government in their country.

In a statement, the CPI expressed the hope that the unity will be further strengthened to usher in a new democratic development in Bangladesh.

The CPI-M, in a statement, expressed the hope that the people and democratic forces in Bangladesh will be ever vigilant against all possible maneuvers and intrigues to nullify the victory of the democratic forces.

Shekhar on Pakistan Aiding Kashmir Groups

BK0612115890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Planning Commission will be reconstituted in a couple of days. The plan document will be finalized immediately after the new set up assumes charge. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, disclosed this to newsmen in New Delhi today at the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] Raising Day function. He said efforts are on to bring down the prices of essential commodities.

Referring to Indo-Pak relations, the prime minister expressed the hope that Islamabad will not extend any support to subversive forces. When newsmen referred to him Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif's statement that his government will continue to give support to Kashmiri subversives, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said one does not know under what compulsion Mr. Nawaz Sharif

has made such a statement. He said New Delhi will ask Islamabad not to indulge in such activities.

Stay of Sri Lanka Merger Vote Not Opposed

BK0712084490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] India is not opposed to Sri Lanka's decision to postpone a referendum on the merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces from January to August next year. According to sources in New Delhi, India would like the political conditions to stabilize and she does not favor holding the referendum, which may create an alarmist feeling in the minds of Tamils that it is not in their interest. Sources add that India always wanted the active participation of Tamils in the political settlement.

Body To Launch Satellite for Rural Development

BK0712083690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] The Department of Space proposes to launch a satellite to help in rural development. The chairman of the Space Commission in the department, Mr. U.R. Rao, said that the satellite called GRAMSAT will cover programs in 18 languages. Special emphasis will be given on eradication of illiteracy in the country. Mr. Rao said this can also be used for improving professional skills of industrial workers to achieve better productivity through education.

Shekhar Discusses Issues With Punjab Leaders

BK0712131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has said government does not want violence in Punjab, but, at the same time, it will not give in to any threat and will not be cowed down. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was interacting with leaders of the state units of various political parties in New Delhi today. He said government is prepared to talk to any person to find a solution to the problem. But, it will never compromise on the unity and integrity of the nation.

The prime minister had called a meeting of leaders in Punjab primarily to know their views on the present situation in the state and what step should be taken to improve it. The meeting, which lasted nearly three hours, was attended, among others, by Mr. Mangat Ram Paswa, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Avtar Singh Malhotra and Mr. Pyara Singh Deosi, both CPI; Mr. Omkar Singh Thapar, Akali Dal-Longowal; Mr. Rajdev Singh, Akali Dal-Mann; Mr. H.S. Hanspal and Mr. Sukhbans Kaul, both Congress-I; Mr. Teja Singh Tiwana, Janata Dal; Captain Vikram Singh, Janata Dal-S; and Mahant Seva Das Singh, Akali Das-Theruman.

Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said some more political parties, who could not attend today's meeting, will possibly be invited for talks tomorrow.

More ULFA Activists Arrested in Assam

BK0612161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Assam, 44 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists have been arrested by the police and the Army during the past 24 hours. Thirty-one of them were arrested by the Assam police. With this, the total number of those in custody has gone up to 445. Three persons, including a jawan [soldier] and a ULFA militant, were killed during the flushing-out operations today. A woman was also killed in a cross fire during a search. One army jawan was killed and four were seriously injured in a mine blast at Saraipung in upper Assam during a combing a operation. Of the 16 bodies recovered from Lakipathar in Tinsukia District, three have been identified.

Meanwhile, about 1,000 villagers from the Kothalmuri, (Dhukiajang), and Chorangpung areas have been evacuated because of Army operations. They have been given shelter at (Binjang) of Tinsukia District.

Uttar Pradesh Violence Continues, Police Deploy

BK0712090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of (Ganja Dhundhwala) in Etah District remained peaceful last night. According to an official spokesman in Lucknow, four persons, including two women, were killed and four others seriously injured in separate incidents last evening. Additional police forces have been deployed in the area and a constant vigil is being maintained. The situation in (Ganja Dhundhwala) and nearby areas is, however, stated to be tense but under control.

Maoist Rebels Kidnap More in Andhra Pradesh

BK0612162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, has categorically stated that there will be no change in the government's policy toward Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas]. This was announced by him while talking to newsmen in Hyderabad today. The Naxalites are holding 20 persons as hostages. They are demanding the release of one of their colleagues.

Meanwhile, agency reports say that six more persons were kidnapped by Naxalites today. The kidnapping took place while they were returning after a mandal [village council] meeting in the Warangal District.

Two-Month Night Curfew Imposed in Aijal

BK0612161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Mizoram, night curfew has been imposed in 28 villages in Aijal District from tonight. A notification

issued by the district magistrate of Aijal today said that the curfew will remain effective for two months as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident. This follows activities of a militant group called the Amal People's Convention in the state.

Hindu Volunteers Arrested in Ayodhya

BK0612125590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, nearly 1,000 kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] courted arrest in Ayodhya on the first day of their satyagraha [passive protest] program today. The procession for satyagraha was led by Swami Chinmayananda, Swami Vasudevacharya, and Swami Ramaunjacharya. The 300 arrested women kar sevaks included two legislators from Rajasthan. The district magistrate, Faizabad, told newsmen this evening that the arrested male satyagrahis have been sent to Allahabad.

The situation in Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order. Earlier, some kar sevaks reached the main gate of the disputed complex and tried to enter the disputed area. Police had a hard time to push them back. The situation eased when the kar sevaks were allowed to have a darshan [view] of the deity in the disputed complex.

The president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagya Samiti [Hindu organization for the liberation of the birthplace of Lord Rama], Mahant Avaidyanath, MP [member of parliament], told our correspondent that the satyagraha program will be peaceful in the coming days also.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has said that the satyagraha at Ayodhya will continue till the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue is settled unconditionally. The party vice president, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari told newsmen in New Delhi that the satyagraha started in Ayodhya today as planned and it was peaceful. He alleged that the BJP was not invited to the all-party meeting convened by the government to discuss the issue.

The Janata Dal-S has expressed happiness at the peaceful kar seva satyagraha in Ayodhya and hoped that the negotiations to resolve the temple issue can go ahead under the prevailing atmosphere. Talking to newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, said there is nothing wrong in trying to seek a negotiated settlement to the dispute. He pointed out that a compromise outside the court is permitted under the law.

Hindu Protestors Arrested at Ayodhya Site

BK0712093890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In Ayodhya, peaceful satyagraha [passive protest] continues on the second day today. Over 700 kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] courted arrest in batches. The first batch was led by the president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagya Samiti [a Hindu organization], Mahant Avaidyanath, MP [member of parliament]. The kar sevaks started from Deoraha Baba Ashram and courted arrest near Amava temple. Darshan [view of the deity] in the disputed temple complex is continuing.

Earlier, this morning unruly elements in the garb of kar sevaks attempted to create trouble at the disputed site. They were arrested by the police. The situation in Faizabad and Ayodhya is peaceful.

Hindus Burn Muslim; Monkey Death Avenged

BK0712105590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 7 Dec 90

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Dec 7 (AFP)—Hindu fanatics burned a young Moslem to death here Friday as another 800 activists were arrested in a renewed campaign to replace a disputed 16th-century Mosque with a temple.

Some 150 people witnessed the lynching in the northern riverside pilgrim town on the second day of a peaceful "court arrest" programme sponsored by the fundamentalist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP—World Hindu Council).

A group of Hindus caught the unidentified man, who was reportedly dressed in the garb of a Hindu ascetic, after he strayed into a militant stronghold, witnesses said.

The crowd thrashed the man, tied him with rope, poured kerosene over him and set his clothes on fire in a narrow alley two kilometres (a mile) from the disputed mosque, the witnesses said.

"We heard the man scream in pain," said a Hindu, Pratap Singh. A woman living nearby said she saw the victim in flames. He died with most of his body burned.

Police confirmed the incident, but gave no details.

"We found the burned body of a man. We have registered a case of murder," Police Inspector Shiv Shankar Pandey said. He said he did not know whether the victim was a Hindu or a Moslem.

More than 800 Hindus chanting slogans and sporting saffron-coloured bandannas marched on the heavily guarded disputed site in groups of about 100 each and offered themselves up for arrest as they neared the shrine.

They included a member of the federal parliament, Mahant Avaidyanath of the Hindu Mahasabha (Hindu Assembly) party.

Some 1,100 Hindus had courted arrest Thursday on the first day of the campaign, which is to run until December 31, according to the organisers.

"We have proved how dedicated Hindus can be for their cause. The temple will certainly come up one day," said Purushottam Narain Singh of the VHP in a comment on the crusade.

The programme continued to be peaceful, with heavy security assured by an estimated 6,000 police and paramilitary troops deployed in the town of 100,000 people.

On Thursday night, residents of Ayodhya and the thousands of Hindus assembled in the town for the VHP's programme avenged the death of a monkey run over by a bus belonging to the Uttar Pradesh state government.

An angry mob torched the bus, which was destroyed, then raised a makeshift memorial for the dead monkey where they lit lamps, and took out a funeral procession.

Hindus revere monkeys, believing them to be faithful followers of their god Rama, a mythical warrior-king who is portrayed in mythology as an incarnation of Vishnu, the preserver of life.

Moslems reject the Hindu belief that the mosque, built by Moghul Emperor Babar in India's early Islamic era, was constructed after demolishing a Rama temple on the site.

Police gunfire killed a total of 24 people in defeating violent attempts by hundreds of Hindus to occupy the mosque on October 30 and November 2.

Iran

Islamic Conference on Palestine Concludes

Urges Support for Intifadah

LD0512103390 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—The Islamic uprising of the Palestinians intifadah has frightened the occupying regime of Quds [Jerusalem], said a prominent Lebanese combatant alim 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Tuesday.

Addressing the afternoon session of the first Islamic conference on Palestine, opened here Tuesday with participation of foreign and domestic scholars, ulema and officials, the Lebanese alim expressed concern over the lack of a sound and comprehensive program which could be implemented along the intifadah. He also called for solidarity in action.

Fadlallah rejected any connection between the Palestinian issue and the Persian Gulf crisis, stressing that the highest priority must be given to the Palestinian uprising and that the highest priority must be given to the Palestinian uprising and that the issue must be kept alive at all times.

Another speaker of the session, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, a member of the leadership of the Islamic Jihad movement, stressed that any attempt to devoid the Palestinian movement from its Islamic nature must be rejected. He said that the holy Quds will be liberated and Israel will be wiped out through the Islamic struggle of the oppressed Palestinian nation.

Another speaker of the three-day conference, Secretary General of the Palestine National Salvation Front Khalid al-Fahum called for withdrawal of alien forces from the Persian Gulf region.

Also speaking in the conference was Mustafa Mashhur of Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Muslim brotherhood) who pointed that the U.S. is the main enemy of Muslims and the staunch supporter of the occupying regime.

He condemned Iraqi occupation of Kuwait but added that subsequent presence of Washington in the heartland of the Islamic countries aimed to protect the Zionist regime.

Member of the Lebanese Hizballah leadership, 'Abbas al-Musawi, told the conference that the influx of Jews to the occupied lands posed grave dangers on Muslims and urged Muslims and the liberation movements to follow the example of the Islamic Republic in their struggle against Zionism. The key to the Palestine issue is armed uprising, he stressed.

The conference sponsored by the Foreign Ministry was opened Tuesday morning on the anniversary of intifadah.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks

LD0612174290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report by unidentified correspondent on a speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Islamic Palestine Conference final session in Tehran on 6 December]

[Excerpts] At the final session of the Islamic Palestine Conference today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the importance of continuation of all-round support by the Islamic Revolution leadership and the Islamic Republic people and officials for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people until the regime occupying Jerusalem is destroyed. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] The first Islamic Palestine Conference ended this evening with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a resolution.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The issue of Palestine is more sensitive than ever. We feel that new conditions will possibly prevail in the region. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then censured Western public opinion for its indifference toward the crimes committed by the regime occupying Jerusalem in Palestine with U.S. support.

He added: Today the presence of Israel in the regime is so important to the United States that the United States is prepared to pay any price for it. Experience has also shown that talks and flexibility would not help rescue Palestine.

The president then pointed out that suitable historical opportunities should be taken advantage of to realize the rights of the Palestinian nation. He said: The victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran was an excellent opportunity for helping the people of Palestine. If the progressive Arab countries had taken advantage of that situation, it would definitely have been possible to help save Palestine. But, unfortunately, the resources that should have been used against Israeli interests, at that juncture, were mobilized to destroy the Islamic revolution, and with the imposition of war on Iran, that historical chance was lost.

Saying that the West would stop supporting Israel if its own existence were threatened, the president said: Muslim countries in the region could use oil as a political weapon in the issue of Palestine and force the West, especially the United States, to yield.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's clear stance on defending the people of Palestine, addressing the leaders of combative Palestinian groups and conference attendants, he assured: You can count on Iran as an important base ready to cooperate until the last phase of the rescue of Palestine. We hope that one of the results of this conference will be to create unity and uniformity in the world of Islam to confront the regime occupying Jerusalem. [end recording]

Conference Issues Statement

NC0712085590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] The Islamic Conference on Palestine concluded last night with an emphasis on armed holy war as the basis of the struggle against the usurpers of Jerusalem. The statement issued at the conclusion of the conference said:

Palestine is the land of Islam and the Muslims, and Israel is a racist, despotic, and terrorist entity against which a cultural, historical, and multifaceted struggle is a struggle against the enemies of humanity, which should continue with full force and without compromise of any kind.

The conference rejected all plans which entailed any kind of compromise or surrender as well as those which jeopardized the Palestinian aspirations for the sake of attaining specific objectives, and called for unity and armed struggle by all the forces and popular organizations against the criminal adversary.

In this regard, the participants in the conference stressed the creation of a 1-million-strong Muslim army for the establishment of the independent country of Palestine on its territory as well as the liberation of other occupied areas.

The statement issued at the end of the Islamic conference on Palestine adds: The policy followed by the arch-Satan, the United States, in the world and in the region in particular, is a criminal and aggressive one. This country is capitalizing on the opportunity created by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, which has diverted world opinion from the actual issues and is striving to bring all the political, economic, and security matters of the region under its own domination.

The participants in the conference referred to the remarks by the vali-ye amr-e Muslimin [guardian of the Muslims' cause] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, who had stated: It is essential that all free and noble people should rise up in continued armed struggle against the presence and domination of the United States.

Regarding the current issues in the region, the conference condemned the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and demanded Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait. In another clause of this resolution referring to the decisive nature of the Islamic revolution and the message by Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—regarding the initiation of the auspicious uprising of the Muslims in the occupied areas, it was stated: The conference calls for the military, financial, political, and propagandistic support of the intifadah so that this hallowed uprising can attain its lofty objectives.

The participants in the Islamic Conference on Palestine conveyed greetings on the commencement of the fourth year of the Muslim uprising in the occupied territories and stressed their support for the heroic operations of the Islamic mujahidin in Egypt, Jordan, and all other areas where Zionists are targets, and called for opening all borders of countries neighboring occupied Palestine, a halt to deportation, and the prosecution of Palestinian combatants and mujahidin in Arab countries.

In this statement, the emigration of Soviet and Falasha Jews to occupied Palestine was termed an international and well-coordinated conspiracy, which created the necessary conditions for the expansionist dreams of the Zionists to materialize and for the purpose of striking at the very basis of the existence of the Palestinian nation.

The conference participants denounced the role of those countries which provide facilities for the Zionists in this regard which complements the enforced usurpation of the region by the United States. They also stressed their support of the struggle of the Muslims in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Kashmir, and other parts of the world.

In the concluding statement of the Islamic Conference on Palestine, combatant anti-Zionist figures who had come to Tehran from more than 25 countries alluded to the principled stance and sincere efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the aspirations of Palestine and hailed the policy of Islamic Iran as the pivot of the entire Islamic world's movements in their efforts to annihilate the Zionist regime. They also expressed appreciation for Tehran's stance.

Another part of this statement mentioned that the conference appreciates and greatly reveres the guiding remarks, of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, which contain revolutionary concepts, and considers them an official document of the conference.

In the last part of the statement, the participants in the conference declared their support for World Jerusalem Day, the last Friday of the auspicious month of Ramadan, the setting up of a fund for support of the Palestinian Muslims' uprising, and their appreciation of the Islamic Majlis for its approval of a law on assistance for the Palestinian nation's Islamic revolution.

Yazdi Sermon Views Human Rights, Intifadah

LD0712123990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Our Muslim compatriots today held the political-religious rites of the Friday prayers throughout the country. Meanwhile, the residents of Tehran gathered today at Tehran University and in nearby streets to observe this Muslim tradition under the leadership of Ayatollah Yazdi.

In these ceremonies, at which the participants in the first Islamic Conference of Palestine were present, the head of the Judiciary Branch referred in his second sermon to the recent address by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, to the officials of the country. He explained points raised in that address. He then expressed the hope that all officials would pay the proper attention to those points.

Then, referring to the recent report by the UN representative on human rights in Iran, the head of the Judiciary said: The visit by the representative of the UN Human Rights Commission to Iran was a fully calculated move. During this visit, which was his second, foreign broadcasting stations, especially U.S. and Israeli station as well as some European ones, were preparing the ground against Iran; they once again made the same unfounded assertions which years ago the hypocrites [reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] used to make. I, therefore, in my capacity as the responsible authority in charge of the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressly declare that in our country there is not one single person in prison accused on ideological ground. No one is in prison charged on the grounds of thoughts and belief, even if he might have signed a letter. Insinuations that in Iran people are imprisoned for their beliefs are pure lies. In Islamic Iran no one is confronted because of their convictions; however, if there is action against the regime and the interests of the nation and the country then the guilty person will be confronted.

Stating that, on the basis of available statistics, in 118 of 153 countries of the world death sentences are among the ordinary and customary sentences and that in 100 countries the death sentence is imposed for ordinary crimes, the head of the judicial power said: To punish the guilty is in reality the observance of human rights. When a merchant of death, who resorts to all sorts of crimes for material gain and puts no value on the members of the society, is punished, then such a punishment is in line with the observance of human rights. Yet global arrogance is not willing to hear, to see, or to present to the world the existing realities in the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Continuing the second sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to the importance of holding the first Islamic Conference on Palestine in Tehran as well as the numerous crimes of the occupying Jerusalem regime against the Muslims of Palestine and Lebanon. He then said: The Islamic uprising of the Muslim Palestinian nation, which was motivated by Islam, will definitely achieve victory. Rights must be achieved; one must not wait to receive one's right from others. It is the right of the Muslims to regain the Islamic land of Palestine. As the exalted leader said, making efforts toward that end is a religious imperative. The world of Islam is duty bound to support the Muslim strugglers and the Islamic revolution of Palestine in any possible way. Islamic Iran will remain on the side of the Muslim Palestinian nation until the liberation of honorable Jerusalem.

Referring to the anniversary of the demise of Fatimah Zahra, God's blessing on her, Ayatollah Yazdi stressed: Not only women but also men must make the fruitful life of that saint a model to emulate in their own lives.

Further on Yazdi Sermon

NC0712140890 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, Dec 7 (AFP)—Iran's chief justice said Friday that "not a single prisoner was jailed in Iran because of his views," and that all current inmates were charged with crimes committed against the government.

Commenting on a recent U.N. commission report critical of human rights in Iran, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said the findings were "unfounded lies".

The chief justice, Iran's highest legal authority who was speaking during Friday prayers at Tehran University, said prisoners in his country "are not detained for having written or signed letters addressed to the country's officials."

In an initial reaction to the United Nations report, Ayatollah Yazdi said the report had been written under pressure from the major powers. [passage omitted]

Karrubi Suggests Army To Liberate Palestine

LD0612163890 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi today called for formation of an Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine

Addressing the first ever Islamic Conference on Palestine, Hoj. Karrubi came out with bold suggestions and

said the Islamic Republic can we be a training centre for such an army to be made up of Muslim youths from all parts of the globe.

"Conferences, speeches and resolutions are welcome, but what we need are practical steps in this direction, because Palestine can only be liberated by force," he said.

Suggestions spelled out by the speaker include the setting up of a special fund to be contributed by all Muslim states for financing the struggle against the illegal state of Israel.

He said, Iran could examine the allocation of a separate fund for this purpose in the next year's budget. The Hojjat ol-Eslam also emphasized on a cultural campaign, and said the history of the Palestinian struggle should be properly documented and distributed to world people in the form of books, posters and films and the like "so that the world becomes aware of the depth of the zionist crimes."

"Palestine is a basically an Islamic issue, and Muslims should marshal all their resources towards this cause," he reiterated. He pointed out that without the West's vast support, Israel would soon cease to exist, and said that one of the major goals of the American-led military intrusion in the Persian Gulf is to "prop up the Zionist entity."

The three-day conference was inaugurated Tuesday by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on the 3rd anniversary of the intifada, and is being attended by some 140 foreign and domestic scholars, ulema and officials.

Editorial Questions Benefits From Gulf War

NC0712105690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 26 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Who Would Benefit From Persian Gulf War?"]

[Text] Who will really stand to benefit from a full-scale war in the Persian Gulf between the allied forces led by the U.S. and the aggressor Iraq? In its real sense, no war has had any true winner and all warring countries have had to deal with the consequences resulting from human and material losses. Generally all lives and talents wasted because of war efforts cannot be replaced. But reviewing the history of America's engagement in overseas wars one can easily conclude that Washington has more often than not stood to benefit economically and politically from militarism and wars.

Then what will be the stakes for Washington if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf? The U.S. occupation of Kuwait and Washington's subsequent long-term presence in the region, will put it in effective control of the production and distribution of all Persian Gulf Arab oil, with the exception of Iraq, if the U.S. government decides not to invade that country. Therefore, this will be Washington not the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and not even its progressive member states such as Iran, Algeria, Libya, Yemen and Iraq which will decide about oil prices.

As one of the major oil importers of the world, the U.S. has always tried to get its hands on cheap oil. To use the rule of thumb, one can realize that the current oil prices are causing huge sums of foreign payments for Washington. Thus America will not hesitate to do what it can, including resorting to war to stop the current oil price hike.

It is obvious that the U.S. will never do a favor without expecting something in return for al-Sabah family or the Saudis. Since the troop deployment to the Persian Gulf began, Washington has asked the Arab sheikhdoms for every penny it spent on its buildup of war machine in the region.

According to military analysts the cost of a weeklong assault against Iraqi forces heavily fortified in Kuwait, will be something in the neighborhood of $50b which will have to be borne by Kuwait in one way or another. On the other hand it is quite clear to every one that American big business which control the U.S. political and economic affairs would certainly make more profit from "gun" (militarism) than "butter" (welfare). Thus the future war against Iraq will provide the Pentagon and the American military industrial complex with an excellent opportunity—after the end of the cold war—to maximize their profit and safeguard their interests.

In this respect it should be noted that, for example, the U.S. annually charges Japan and Germany $40,000 for every American troop stationed in one of those countries. Of course, the figure does not include the costs of military hardware. The fee will be much higher for Arab countries of the Persian Gulf due to such excuses as harsh climatic conditions and being a Third World country of camel jockies.

In this way Washington will milk rich Arab sheikhdoms in the name of defending them against external threats! But for sure it will never support or protect Arabs against the real threat posed by the Zionists entity.

Paper on Whether U.S. Wants War in Persian Gulf

NC0712113790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Is U.S. for a War in Persian Gulf?"]

[Text] The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have reached broad agreement on a draft resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq but failed to set a deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait.

Iraq meanwhile has denounced the agreement and declared it would never bow to pressure and will continue "to struggle to achieve peace and justice in the region".

The repercussions of a military confrontation in the highly strategic Persian Gulf region will certainly not be easy for the Americans to tolerate. Washignton can never portray a bright prospect out of the alarming situation in the volatile region.

It is true that the U.S. can easily enter the battlefield against Iraq but the question is whether the Americans would be able to win the war so easily. It is very unlikely.

In view of the military strength of the two sides, their human potentials, as well as the sensitivity of the region, if a war break out, its impact could be so destructive that it could jeopardize the security of the entire world and make the White House regret its adventure.

The Iraqi army with over 1.8 million skilled troops is regarded the fourth efficient army in the world. Pentagon experts estimate that in the event of a war U.S. forces would incur between 10,000 to 20,000 losses men. This would be a disaster for the ruling U.S. administration as Bush would never be able to justify his action before the American public.

On the other hand, possible destruction of oil installations in Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other oil rich states, would paralyze the oil exports from the region. Consequently, oil prices will jump and this in its turn would deal a great blow to the international economic order. Here the U.S. and other Western countries as the main oil consumers will be hit hardest.

There are still more than 2,000 Westerners held in Iraq and occupied Kuwait and Saddam Husayn on Tuesday quietly moved the British and American hostages held at strategic sites in Kuwait to Baghdad after the ultimatum that he should quit Kuwait immediately. This 'human shield' is another factor forcing Washington to have second thoughts regarding a military attack against Iraq.

An attack on Iraq's stategic centers would mean the death of the Western hostages—something which can easily harm Washington's 'humanitarian' image in the world as an advocate of peace and security.

On the other hand a military and economic blow on Iraq by the U.S. would prompt strong anti-American reaction from the Muslim and Arab people of the region. It would also threaten the rule of the subservient regimes in the region and strengthen radical sentiments in the area. This would mean that the U.S. interests throughout the world would be endangered.

A war in the Persian Gulf could also threaten the Zionist regime because Saddam might fulfill his promise and attack Israel with his ballistic missiles and chemical bombs.

The U.S. cannot and does not want to enter a quagmire which would bring it another scandal.

Paper Says Major May Solve British Hostage Issue

NC0712112190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Will There Be Any Major Care for British Hostages in Lebanon"]

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in London stressed that it possesses evidences which indicate that Jack Mann, one of the three British hostages in Lebanon is still alive, Mann, 77, and an ex-pilot of the British Air Force was abducted in Beirut in May 1989. The Foreign Office spokesman said even at the time of abduction, Mann did not enjoy complete health, and therefore London was concerned over his condition.

Meanwhile, an informed Lebanese source told the TEHRAN TIMES that Terry Waite, the special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury is also quite healthy and fine.

The concern voiced by the British Foreign Office coincides with the change of leadership in Britain. The coming to power of John Major, the 47 year old Chancellor of the Exchequer in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet, has been received with particular significance by diplomatic circles in the world.

It is said that John Major has similar thoughts to those of Thatcher in many areas that some believe may make Thatcher directing operations as a back-seat driver. The same observers maintain that their main common points are on the European unity, but that the views between Major and Thatcher differ regarding Middle East issues.

U.S. President George Bush was the first leader to congratulate Major on his victory on the phone but it seems that the era for London to unconditionally obey Washington's policies may be over. In other words, the British community is no more prepared to adopt such an attitude as total subservience to the White House.

For this reason it is expected in some quarters that Major will settle the issue of British hostages in Lebanon, a problem which could have been resolved long ago if it had not been for the obstinacy shown by Mrs. Thatcher.

Observers following events in the Middle East are looking to see what a stance Major will take in Lebanon. Will the new British prime minister show care for the lives of the British hostages in Lebanon? Or like the former premier would he depend upon instructions from Washington? One view from a British diplomat is that London is so slow in taking action, all American hostages could back in their homes one day but London will still be waiting for Washington to give it the go-ahead for releasing its own hostages.

*** City Hall Employees Arrested for Bribery**

91AS0258G London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] More than 100 employees of the Tehran mayor's office were arrested for forging government documents and bribe-taking. These people are being prosecuted for receiving 3.5 billion rials in cash and 1,850 Spring of Freedom coins [gold coin first issued in 1979].

According to Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi of the Tehran Military Court, this network was discovered after the prosecution of "a military defendant." The name of this "military defendant" was not disclosed.

According to Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi, the aforementioned network sent requests from the public to do various tasks to the mayor's office, which in turn sent them to the Article Seven Commission and this commission initially rejected the requests. After the applicant protested, the file would go the the Article 7 Review Commission and there certain people made contact with the applicants, and received cash or Spring of Freedom coins for solving their problems.

Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi also announced that four members of the Visa Office were arrested for helping people forbidden to leave the country, and three people were also taken for exporting gold and jewelry.

Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi said society's bad economic situation arises from bribe-taking, yet it is the bad economic situation that leads to bribe-taking.

*** Drug Traffickers, Smugglers Sentenced**

91AS0258F London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Two individuals named Nasir 'Ali Zehi and Gul Muhammad (citizen of Afghanistan) were hung in Ahvaz on charges of transporting and keeping 103 kilograms of heroin.

Also, in Tehran a 21-year-old woman named Ferdows and a 21-year-old man named Majid were executed for killing Mohammad, Ferdows' husband. The family members of the victim carried out the death sentence of these two people.

We note that in the report given to Hashemi-Rafsanjani (head of the anti-narcotics campaign staff) on Thursday, 8 November it was announced that in the last three months 5,050 people were arrested throughout the country on charges of distributing narcotics, and seven tons of narcotics and 70 weapons were taken from them.

*** Five Persons Hanged for 'Spying'**

91AS0258D London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Last Saturday in Tehran Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi of the Tehran Military Court announced that an individual named Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Shah Bokhari was tried and executed at the Military Court for spying for the CIA. Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi told correspondents: Recently new spy networks have been found in the country and four persons have been hanged in connection with their activities.

Concerning the activities of Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Shah Bokhari, Sheykh Mohammad Niyazi said: With influence in some organizations affiliated with the armed forces, he was extensively active and he also spied for the CIA during the war. The Tehran military court also revealed the names of other persons executed, and concerning the citizenship of Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Shah Bokhari it said only that he was a citizen of a neighbor country.

The name of the organization "affiliated with the Armed Forces" in which the aforementioned individual carried out spying activities was not revealed, but it is probable that this person was active in organizations affiliated with the revolutionary guard, because so far whenever people have been arrested for spying in the Army they clearly gave the name "Army".

*** Plea for Return of Arms, Explosives**

91AS0258B London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Islamic Republic regime's judiciary, asked those in possession of weapons or explosives to hand them over to the authorities without fear of punishment.

He said this this week at the Tehran Friday prayers: Persons in possession of weapons or explosives who have not yet been able to turn them over the authorities must hand them over to the authorities without any fear of punishment.

Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi ordered government officials to make the necessary arrangements for those who will voluntarily hand over the weapons and explosives they have, but he did not set a deadline for turning in the weapons and explosives.

Two days after Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi's talk, the National Sheriff's Office issued an announcement declaring the readiness of the sheriff's units to receive weapons and explosives from the people. No deadline was given in this announcement for turning in the weapons and explosives.

In view of the mild tone of the head of the judiciary and the announcement from the National Sheriff's Office, and the fact that those in possession of weapons and explosives were not threatened if they did not turn them in, it is inferred that this request was addressed to the opposition clerical groups and their affiliates opposed to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i, and probably also includes their unofficial supporters.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's concern about unanticipated measures taken by the Mohtashemi group could have been the reason this issue was raised.

In recent weeks, preachers traveling in bullet-proof automobiles and with armed body guards have also been criticized by some domestic newspapers. It appears that hashemi-Rafsanjani intends to eliminate beforehand any armed measure against him.

Reportage on Velayati's Visit to France

WA0712172290

For reportage on the visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati to France, including reports on his talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and French Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy, please see the France section of the 6 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

ADB To Loan $71 Million for Forestry, Farming

BK0412163590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 2 (AFP)—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to provide Nepal with more than 70 million U.S. dollars in loans and grants to help small farmers and to finance reforestation, a Nepalese Finance Ministry official said Monday.

ADB has granted Nepal about 2.2 billion rupees (71.8 million dollars) in loans and 34 million rupees (1.1 million dollars) in grants to help implement the third small farmers development project and forestry sector programs, the official said.

Five separate agreements to this effect were signed between the Nepalese Government and the ADB at the Ministry of Finance here Sunday.

The agreements were signed by Finance Secretary Sashi Narayn Shah and Dalheue Coue, chief of the ADB office here.

The agreements provide for term loan assistance for development of the forestry sector, checking soil erosion and improving living standards of landless rural poor and of 137,900 small farmers, the official said.

Editorial Views Shekhar's Cabinet Formation

BK0612110590 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 22 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Shekhar's Cabinet"]

[Text] After eleven days of delay, India's Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar finally announced his cabinet lineup on Wednesday, hours before he left for Maldives to attend the fifth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit the same afternoon. As was only to be expected, the 32-member Shekhar team is composed of ministers picked up from a highly limited choice. Mr Shekhar's Janata Dal (S) has only about 11 percent of the Lok Sabha's (lower house of parliament) current effective strength, which is why he has included several members from outside in his cabinet. Even his predecessor Mr. V.P. Singh had considerable difficulty in forming his cabinet with due representation to both the north and south of the country, including various communities. While Mr. Singh had some 150 Lok Sabha members plus scores from Rajya Sabha (upper house) to choose from, Mr Shekhar's options have been extremely limited on account of his party's miniscule position though propped up by the largest party in the House, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I). It is not that there are no experienced hands in the Shekhar cabinet formed after 11 days of uncertainty when the "cabinet" included only the Prime Minister Devi Lal. But most of them are admittedly those never considered for ministerial posts by his immediate predecessor.

Mr. V.C. Shukla, whose role during the Emergency rule imposed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the '70s continues to haunt him, is back as the foreign minister, while the former IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officer and a Shekhar loyalist, Mr Yashwant Sinha, has been given the Finance portfolio. Mr Subramaniam Swamy, till recently the leader of the fossilised Janata Party, has been drawn from outside to take charge of the Commerce Ministry. Most of the nine ministers who tendered resignations in rebellion against Mr V.P. Singh, have been rewarded with reinstatements. Notable among them is Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, the estranged sister-in-law of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Both Mrs. Gandhi and Mr Shukla, once in the Congress (I) camp, have been making virtiolic attacks against their "mother party".

The fact that even ministers known for their hard stand against Mr. Gandhi on personal levels and the Congress (I) on the political plane, have been included in the cabinet is viewed as Mr. Shekhar having been given a more or less free hand in his team's composition. But it may also be quite expedient for Mr Gandhi to be liberal in his support for the Shekhar's group of Janata Dal, as his own Congress (I) would not like to be associated with the lapses that the fragile ruling party might commit in the coming months. But Mr Gandhi will surely pull the strings from behind the scene. The Bofors weapons purchase scandal, for instance, involving over Rs. 1.4 billion in bribes and embarrassing the Gandhi legacy greatly, would be a test case. The public will be closely following the manner in which the new cabinet will pursue or quietly abandon the case, though the transaction of bribes was established by the Swedish courts soon after Mr. Shekhar was sworn into office. The Congress (I) has a Lok Sabha strength that is three times the size of Janata Dal (S). Mr. Shekhar and his team's task of restoring law and order, controlling the spiralling prices

of essentials and coping with other myriad problems inherited from the Gandhi and the Singh Governments is enormous. This is aggravated by the ruling party's poor standing in the House. Mr Shekhar has appealed for cooperation from all political parties, including the V.P. Singh-led Janata Dal—something he himself was highly reluctant to extend during the 11-month rule of his immediate predecessor eventhough he belonged to the same party.

As for Nepal, Mr. Shekhar's premiership is expected to maintain bilateral relations on an even keel.

Congress Urges Civil, Foreign Service Overhaul

BK0112004390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1944 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 30 (AFP)—Nepal's main political party called for a major overhaul of the civil service and diplomatic corps at the conclusion of a three-day meeting here Friday.

The Nepali Congress Central Committee (NCCC) also severely criticized two ministers, both of whom are party members, during the meeting aimed to revitalise the party ahead of planned April 1991 elections.

The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, demanded the replacement of more than 100 senior officials in a sweeping overhaul of both the central and district governments, according to a top party source.

The Central Committee also recommended that Nepal's ambassadors to Rangoon, Tokyo, Beijing, Bangkok, Islamabad, Washington, New York, Dhaka and New Delhi be replaced by new faces who could enhance the Nepali Congress' image.

The Nepali Congress has alleged that many of the civil servants who remained in office after a popular movement ended 30 years of single-party rule in April were playing deceptive roles, disrupting Nepal's political life.

The party source said the staff changes were expected to be carried out within a month, to allow the government to prepare for the April elections.

The Nepali Congress, the key group in Nepal's interim coalition government, also decided at the meeting it would contest the upcoming election "solo," without joining its current coalition partner the United Leftist Front, the source said.

The Nepali Congress' need to revitalise itself ahead of the elections has been made more urgent by the decision of Nepal's two communist parties to contest the poll jointly, the leader said.

The NCCC meeting strongly criticized Home and Communications Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyay and Public Works, Transport and Supply Minister Marshal Julum Shakya, both party members, the source said.

The home minister was accused of failing to maintain law and order and mishandling political issues, while Mr. Shakya was lambasted for his failure to maintain a regular supply of basic goods such as salt, kerosene, sugar and cooking gas.

Pakistan

'Contradiction' in U.S. Mideast Policy Seen

BK0612101890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Indomitable Will"]

[Text] The epochal struggle launched by the Palestinians in the occupied land to throw off the tyrannical yoke of Zionist subjugation completes its three years today. It is a mark of the perseverance and the unflinching spirit of defiance of the Palestinian people that the resistance mounted by them through the employment of projectiles as basic as ordinary rocks has added a new term to the global lexicon of politics: Intifadah. The valiant men, women and children of the occupied land have established once again, and in most graphic terms in the present era, that given a people's will to free themselves of the shackles of slavery, no power on earth can hold its sway over them for long. Inspired as the Palestinian movement is by the Islamic zeal of human emancipation and the dictum of Jihad against excesses in all forms, this essential message of the relentless Intifadah has acquired a special relevance for the struggling Muslim masses in various parts of the world. Notwithstanding the deliberate efforts made by interested quarters to confuse and distort the revolutioned [as published] religious undercurrents of the Palestinian struggle, the inspirational linkages between Intifadah and such manifestly Islamic resistance movements as those raging in Afghanistan and Indian- occupied Kashmir, have become increasingly evident, with the focal point of demonstrated motivation lying in the Iranian Revolution of the late seventies.

On the other hand, the massive deployment of Western troops in and around the Muslim Holy Land could precipitate the contradictions not only vis-a-vis the clash of cultures and faith, but also with regard to the political structures within the regional Muslim societies. Small wonder then that the struggling Muslim masses are getting such a raw deal not only from their respective local and neighbourhood oppressors but also from the global monopolists of human rights and liberty. But the duplicity of the Western conduct in this regard has become nowhere as striking as in the locale of the Palestinian struggle. While America and its allies in the military build-up in the Middle East are all highly worked up on the atrocities committed by Iraq in its occupation of Kuwait, they have turned a blind eye to the doings of the illegal Zionist entity in the same region. The issue here is not the presence or otherwise of any technical linkage between the situation of Kuwait and that of Palestine. In the vortex of activated passions of the Muslim people of the area, the contradiction in the Western approach could trigger off a popular reaction leading to

disaster for foreign as also local usurpers. And the Zionist entity would be an inevitable victim of the deluge.

Sharif Says Nuclear Program 'Prime Objective'

BK0712114590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said the government will not accept any kind of foreign aid at the cost of national interest, keeping the national integrity and security as its prime objective. He was addressing a gathering in Lahore this afternoon to thank people of his constituency on his election. He said they would raise the pride of the nation and would not beg for conditional aid from other countries. They would not accept aid at the cost of their nuclear program, which was a matter of national security, integrity, and prosperity. The prime minister said if they adopt a way of self-reliance, the nation could shortly become a prosperous and developed one. He was confident that people would cooperate with the government in bringing the country at par with the developed nations. He said they had decided to restore supremacy of law and merit to curb the menace of corruption and discrimination.

Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said bank loans would be given without any conditions, security, or mortgage to poor craftsmen to help them set up their own small-scale industries in order to promote self-employment. He said there would be no limit for investment in any kind of industries and the industrialists would not require any permission from the government. The prime minister said those investing black money for establishing new industries in one year would not be asked to show from where they had acquired their wealth.

Premier Says His, Army Priorities Similar

BK0612104390 Lahore THE NATION in English 6 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] Karachi—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that there is no reason to come into conflict with the armed forces. My priorities and the country's priorities, and the army's priorities are the same. The army has its own role to play in the Constitution of Pakistan, and I as Prime Minister control everything that is happening in Pakistan, so I don't think there is any question of coming into conflict with anyone. He said this in an interview published in the latest issue of an English monthly magazine of Karachi.

Mr Nawaz Sharif said: "It will be my endeavour to strengthen the institution (of the Prime Minister). It has not really been strengthened because of military rule, off and on."

"Now is the time, when we have come back with a full mandate, with a complete mandate—not just a simple majority in the House, but an overwhelming majority, more then two-thirds. Now is the time to really strengthen democracy, not just the institution of the Prime Minister, but also all democratic institutions in the country. We are now working on those lines", he added.

To a question he said the Foreign Minister comes under the Prime Minister, and every Ministry comes under the Prime Minister. Responding to another question about more autonomy for the provinces, he said whatever was in the Constitution, "I will follow that".

Asked if he thought that the constitution will be amended in order to give smaller provinces, the sort of autonomy that they were demanding, Mr Nawaz Sharif said:

"That will have to be looked at. I don't know what other powers are required by the Provinces."

As far as I am concerned, I will be convening the Council of Common Interests and the National Finance Commission, which has not been done in the last two years I will do that, so that the provinces can really get their due share from national resources and run their provinces according to the Constitution of Pakistan.

Answering yet another question, the Prime Minister said he never talked about the Kalabagh Dam. 'It is something the four provinces have to sit down and decide. If the Kalabagh Dam has to be built, then I think it should be built, through consensus, he added.

About Pakistan's nuclear programme, he said Pakistan believes in developing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. 'We have no other design. I think America should have no reason to obstruct that', he said.

When asked about providing guarantees about Pakistan's nuclear programme to the US, Mr Nawaz Sharif said: "It will have to be seen in the overall context of the situation. Pakistan cannot do this in isolation. If India is also persuaded to simultaneously accept such conditions, then Pakistan will be only too happy to accept them.

To a question, the Prime Minister said: 'We should learn to stand on our own feet and not depend on foreign assistance and foreign aid. 'Whether it is the US or anybody else, I think we should start relying on our own resources, and I think we have taken the first step, he added.

Housing Minister's Portfolio, Title Revised

BK0612155390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] A notification issued by the cabinet division in Islamabad today says the prime minister has revised the portfolio of Syed Tariq Mahmud and appointed him as the minister for construction in lieu of his position as the minister for housing and construction.

Sri Lanka

Gulf Crisis Costs Colombo 5 Billion Rupees

BK0112114890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Despite earlier anxieties that Iraq's absence from the Colombo tea auction would depress prices, tea has been doing well since second of August annexation of Kuwait, and has actually helped to reduce the impact of the Gulf crisis. The original anxieties about tea losses have not materialized, Dr. W. Hettiarachchi, head of the Central Bank research department, said yesterday. Tea prices had maintained an upward trend since August and averaged 70 rupees per kg at the beginning of November. There had been a 5-rupee decline in the tea sale average at the last two auctions.

Oil prices are what has hurt the country most as a result of the Gulf situation, with additional disbursement to procure the necessary supplies costing 3.5 billion rupees. Sri Lanka, which has also lost remittance money from Sri Lankans working in Kuwait and Iraq, had to spend 80 million rupees more on fertilizer and 360 million rupees on freight. Dr. Hettiarachchi said that the overall cost of the Gulf crisis to Sri Lanka this year was 5 billion rupees. The Central Bank estimates a 5 percent GDP [Gross Domestic Product] growth this year.

Task Force Set To Monitor Rights Violations

BK3011100890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0743 GMT 30 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa, responding swiftly to concern expressed by donor countries at the Paris aid consortium meeting last October, on the subject of human rights, has appointed a special task force to monitor and deal effectively with all violations.

The special task force will be convened and coordinated by Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, presidential advisor on international relations. The appointment of the task force is considered evidence of the seriousness with which the president is taking the whole human rights issue and the importance which the government attaches to the anxiety expressed by the aid consortium and other donor agencies.

The objectives of the task force are as follows:

"Formulate and implement a strategy to meet charges of human rights violations worldwide".

"Coordinate the responses of the Sri Lankan government to such charges".

"Collate data to meet allegations of disappearances and extra judicial executions".

"Assist in expediting court and departmental disciplinary action against state officers charged with excesses". The task force will also monitor all allegations, in order to minimise occasion for making them.

Economy Shows Signs of 'Strong' Recovery

BK3011101490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0915 GMT 30 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan economy has shown signs of strong recovery with lustrous performance in many sectors, the most prominent being the agricultural and industrial sectors.

In the agricultural sector, all major crops, except rubber, showed strong growth.

The recovery was particularly evident in tea and paddy which recorded production increases of 28 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, states a press release issued by the central bank.

It further states the output of the industrial sector has grown by 12 per cent during the first six months of this year. The industrial output in the private sector reflected a growth rate of 14 per cent, while that of the public sector grew by a moderate 5 per cent.

The tourist industry, which had been experiencing serious difficulties since the eruption of civil disturbances in 1989, also made a substantial recovery during the first half of the year indicating a growth rate of 78 per cent in tourist arrivals.

The developments from the budgetary and the balance of payments fronts have been satisfactory. While the overall deficit of the budget was contained at about the same level as in the first half of the previous year, the balance of payments recorded an overall surplus of SDR [Special Drawing Rights] 74 million during the first half of 1990. However price developments continued to be adverse.

The first half of 1990 witnessed a continuation of the rising trend in prices observed during the latter part of 1989. These price increases were largely attributable to corrective adjustments made in the administrative prices such as flour, bread, and fertilizer and the depreciation of the exchange rate.